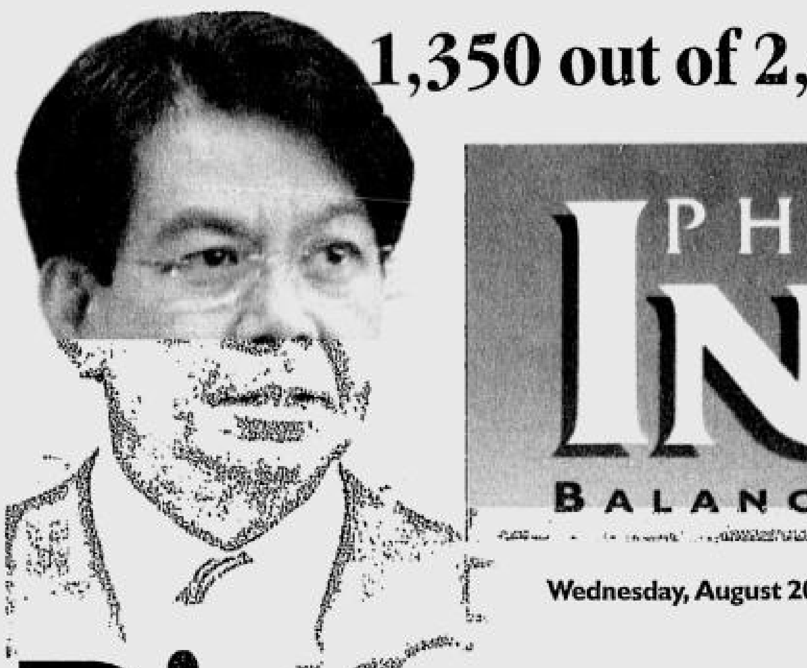
1,350 out of 2,430 passed board exams for doctors See full list iO INQ7. net



PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, August 20, 2003 ★★★ 62 pages / 6 sections / vol. 18 / no. 253 P15

Ping seeks freeze of Pidal accounts

THE COUPLE most likely

Senator says he has 2 witnesses vs Mike A

By Christine O. Avendaño and Clarissa S. Batino

SEN. Panfilo Lacson has asked the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) to freeze six bank accounts that he claims First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo is using to illegally hide more than P200 million in campaign contributions to President Macapagal-Aroyo.

Money laundering is the act of "legitimizing dirty money" derived from criminal activities like drug trafficking, smuggling and corruption.

But the AMLC could not freeze any suspicious account without getting a Court of Appeals order, according to Executive Director Vicente Aquino. After Congress passed the amendments to the Anti-Money Laundering Act in March, the council was stripped of its authority to freeze suspicious accounts.

At a press conference, Lacson said yesterday that two witnesses were ready to

PING/A19

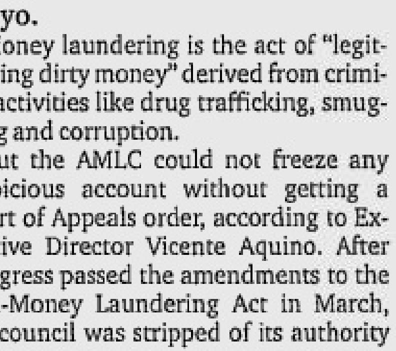
Mike's great grandma was Maria Pidal

**By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Carla P. Gomez**
PDI Visayas Bureau
and Christine Avendaño

ILOILO CITY—The great-grandmother of First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo was named Maria Pidal, a July 11, 1985 resolution of the Supreme Court showed.

A noted Western Visayas historian, lawyer Rex Salvilla, confirmed to the INQUIRER that Maria Pidal was the mother of the paternal grandfather of the First Gentleman, the late Sen. Jose Ma. Pidal

MIKE'S/A18



'Jose Velarde' advises 'Jose Pidal'

By Armand N. Nocum

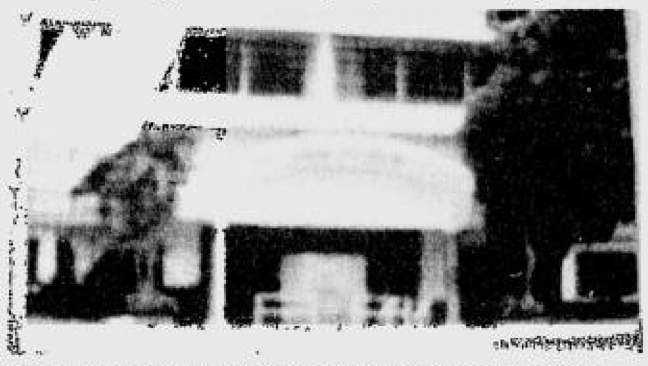
OUSTED President Joseph Estrada's challenge to First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo seems to defy logic, but what the heck?

The man accused of using the

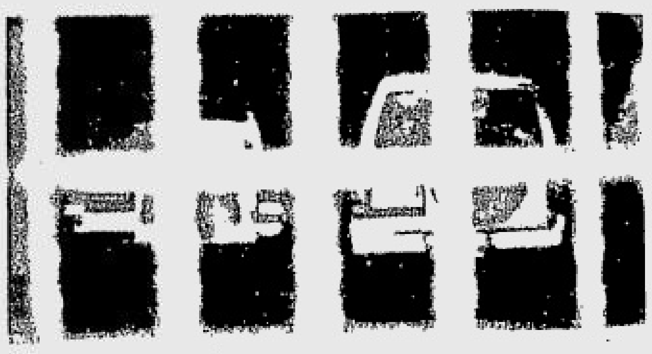
JOSE/A18

PANGANIBAN's alleged P81.7-M undeclared property includes this cockpit along the national highway in Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

FLOR AGUILAR, customs deputy commissioner, owns a P12-M unit at Antel Seaview Towers on Roxas Boulevard.

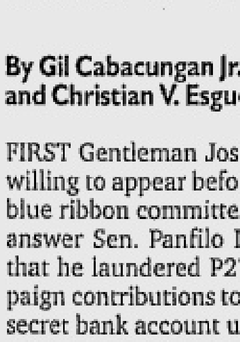


ALL in the family: Building's stockholders are the sisters and brothers-in-law of Panganiban.

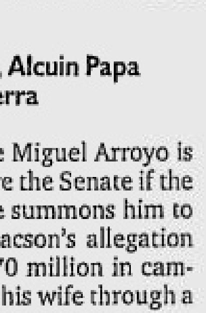


GATED luxury home and vehicles for customs official Jaime Maglipon.

More gov't execs flunk lifestyle check



PANGANIBAN



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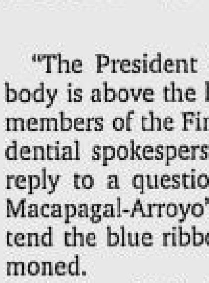

PLEYTO

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THEIR wealth and property found "disproportionate" to their income as government officials, five ranking officials of the Department of Public Works and Highways and the Bureau of Customs will be charged with graft today before the Ombudsman.

The five—Undersecretary Salvador A. Pleyto and Regional Director (Region IV-B) Romeo G. Panganiban, who both have served the DPWH for 37 years; and Gil A. Valera, Jaime P. Maglipon and Flor A. Aguilar, Customs deputy commissioner, deputy collector and miscellaneous division chief, respectively—flunked the lifestyle test conducted by the "Transparency Group."

The unexplained wealth included Panganiban's un-

MORE/A18

First Gentleman willing to face probe

By Gil Cabacungan Jr., Alcuin Papa and Christian V. Esguerra

FIRST Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo is willing to appear before the Senate if the blue ribbon committee summons him to answer Sen. Panfilo Lacson's allegation that he laundered P270 million in campaign contributions to his wife through a secret bank account using a bogus name and three other accounts using names of his aides.

"The President has always said nobody is above the law and that includes members of the First Family," said presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye in reply to a question whether President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband would attend the blue ribbon committee if summoned.

Bunye said the First Gentleman was "willing to answer at an appropriate time, in a fair and public hearing, all charges against him provided that the senator waives his parliamentary immunity."

The presidential spokesperson admitted that Arroyo was "prone" to attacks from members of the opposition because "they feel that if they attack the First Gentleman they are attacking the President."

"The important thing is that allegations against the First Gentleman have not been proven in the past and the cur-

FIRST/A0

DR. ROMEO TARUC

Son of Huk leader Ninoy's first scholar

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—As fate would have it, the son of the guerrilla leader who helped make Ninoy Aquino famous became Aquino's first-ever scholar.

Dr. Romeo Taruc, the only son of Luis Taruc, leader of the anti-Japanese guerrilla army Hukbong Bayan Laban sa Hapon (Hukbalahap), said Aquino sent him to school even before the reporter turned politician set up the Ninoy Scholarship Foundation in his home province of Tarlac.

He said Aquino supported him through medical school by securing a scholarship at the Far Eastern University and through a P70 monthly stipend he gave for seven years. The money, Taruc said, probably came from Aquino's last two years of working at the Manila Times and from his political posts.

"Ninoy really made sure he kept his promise to Ka Luis," Taruc said.

The bond between the two began in the summer of 1954. Taruc's son was turning 18, Aquino was 21.

Sent by President Ramon Magsaysay as special emissary for a fresh round of peace talks with the Hukbalahap supremo, Ninoy first went on a search for Taruc's son.

"He thought my father would feel

SON/A19

Lacson exposé peddled to Pimentel 10 months ago

By Michael Lim Ubac and Carlito Pablo

OPPOSITION Sen. Panfilo Lacson's exposé of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo's alleged unexplained wealth drew sharp partisan reactions from both houses of Congress yesterday, but a disclosure from a fellow oppositionist put a damper on Lacson's explosive privileged speech.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday told reporters that the documents and pieces of evidence Lacson cited on Monday had been shown to him about 10 months ago.

Pimentel said he had been asked by a group of people, whom he did not identify, to deliver a privileged speech on the same allegations against Arroyo, but he declined.

"In this particular case, (they wanted an) exposé, but there was no additional or corroborative evidence, especially testimonial evidence," said Pimentel.

He added: "Because there was only one witness and I told them to produce one more corroborative witness. As a matter of fact there was a corroborative witness, but (the witness) wouldn't want to surface."

Besides the additional witness, Pimentel demanded "updated" evidence.

He admitted that Lacson's claim that

LACSON/A20

GMA smothers GMA 7 reporter with attention

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

GMA 7 reporter Tina Panganiban-Perez, who was berated by President Macapagal-Arroyo for interviewing Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, has just learned how it is to be wooed, Malacañang style.

During a visit yesterday to a shabu warehouse in Carmona, Cavite, which was raided by law enforcement authorities, Ms Macapagal spotted Perez, approached her, cried out "Tina!" and then proceeded to hug the stunned television reporter.

Later in Malacañang, three Cabinet

GMA/A18

COIN
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VAL HANDUMON

CHAMPION of Peace gold coin commemorating Ninoy Aquino's contribution to the restoration of democracy is received by his widow, former President Cory Aquino at the Manila Peninsula on Tuesday. The nation observes Aquino's 20th death anniversary on Aug. 21. *(Story on Page A2.)*

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will have rains with occasional gusty winds with moderate to occasionally rough seas. The Western sections of Luzon and Visayas will have monsoon rains while the rest of the country will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ARMIN ADINA, PDI RESEARCH/08/20/03

Metro Manila	Monsoon rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Monsoon rains
Baguio	Monsoon rains	Roxas	Monsoon rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with rains	Cebu	Cloudy with rains
Laoag	Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Monsoon rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with rains
Tagaytay	Monsoon rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rains
Calapan	Monsoon rains	Davao	Cloudy with rains

Sale of Ninoy gold coins not illegal—BSP

THERE are no more restrictions on the sale of gold coins in the country after the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas liberalized gold and foreign exchange transactions in the early '90s, the BSP said yesterday.

"We do not prohibit the sale of gold coins, whether as commemorative or even those legal tender abroad," BSP Deputy Governor Armando Suratos said.

Thus, Suratos said, the BSP cannot restrict the sale of the Ninoy Aquino commemorative gold coins.

According to Suratos, there was even an earlier plan for another country to mint Ninoy Aquino coins and use these as legal tender. "But I am not sure whether the plan pushed through," he added.

The BSP deputy governor, however, said that mining firms and gold panners are required to sell their entire gold production to the central bank.

Meanwhile, the Department of Trade and Industry yesterday clarified that it is not against the issuance of the "Champion for Peace" commemorative gold and silver coins in honor of the late Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr.

The commemorative coins which were launched yesterday will be marketed locally by the Spirit of Edsa Foundation and abroad by GoldQuest International. The gold coin will be sold at $980 and the silver coin at $580.

The DTI said it has not issued a warning to the public against purchasing the commemorative coins despite the cease-and-desist order issued against GoldQuest Philippines in July for alleged violation of the Consumer Act by engaging in pyramiding activities. GoldQuest Phils is the local representative of GoldQuest International.

"The story 'DTI warns the public on Ninoy coin' (published yesterday in the INQUIRER) is regrettable for it has created the wrong impression about the 'Champion for Peace' commemorative gold coin in honor of Benigno 'Ninoy' Aquino Jr.," Trade Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr. said in a letter sent to the INQUIRER.

Cristobal also clarified that Goldquest could still sell gold coins as long as it will not recruit people, "which is the essential element of pyramiding."

But Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II yesterday issued a warning against putting their money in GoldQuest Phils, saying there was sufficient evidence to warrant the issuance of the CDO against the company. *C. Batino and M. Remo*

Golez: Trillanes job was to spring Erap

By Martin P. Marfil

THE ROGUE soldiers who participated in the July 27 failed coup were organized into 17 task groups in a wide-ranging operation aimed at taking over vital installations and military camps, according to National Security Adviser Roilo Golez.

Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes, the spokesperson of the group of junior officers who laid siege to the Oakwood Premier on July 27, was the leader of Task Group 17 which was in charge of logistics, Golez told the Bulong-Pulungan forum at the Westin Plaza hotel yesterday.

"This group was in charge of finances and acquiring equipment. Trillanes has a big and long story to tell," Golez said.

Task Group 17 was also in charge of springing jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada from the Veterans Medical Memorial Hospital, Golez said.

He said Estrada was important for the funding of the coup. The ousted president's supporters could also be used as "civilian support," he said.

Asked if Estrada knew of the plot, Golez said he had no information about that.

He said other groups were assigned to take over vital installations like Malacañang, Camps Crame and Aguinaldo and Fort Bonifacio, Sangley Point, Naia and the South and Northern Luzon expressways.

Other groups were charged with handling intelligence, medical, information and psychological operations, and power and communications, he said.

Two other groups were placed in charge of air operations and armor assets, he said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said the rebellious officers should be tried in both military and civil courts to ensure a comprehensive and holistic approach in attacking the root causes of military adventurism and disenchantment.

"The inception of the court martial is important to the strength and integrity of the Armed Forces. Justice and discipline must be enforced in the military organization as a deterrent to adventurism or rogue soldiery," the President said in a statement.

She said the investigation of irregularities in the defense and military establishments, particularly in the procurement of military supplies and the lifestyle check on top officials, would continue as part of the "relentless clean-up" of the military.

The lawyer of the mutinous junior officers meanwhile said that the Oakwood siege was not a "spontaneous" event but a carefully planned final stand by the leaders who claimed that they were being hunted down by those who wanted them killed.

"The officers were being hunted down, were being picked up. That was the time they started calling up their classmates to tell them that they were going to make a final stand and that they are expecting their help when the time comes," said lawyer Ruel Pulido.

Pulido represents Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes, Ltsg. James Layug, Capt. Gerardo Gambala, Capt. Gary Alejano, Capt. Milo Maestrecampo and Capt. Nicanor Faeldon.

"The junior officers decided to make a final stand three days before Oakwood. The final decision was made the night before July 27," the lawyer said.

Pulido said it was a plot but "not a coup plot."

He blamed the senators for allegedly taking out of context the officers' claims that their actions at Oakwood were spontaneous.

"The only thing that they said were spontaneous were the time and place of the event," he said at a news conference.

The lawyer said he had advised his clients to just keep silent during the congressional inquiry "so they would not compromise their legal defense." *With a report from Norman Bordadora and Gil Cabacungan*

AFP: Gullible mutineers fell for fake document

By Volt Contreras

THE ARMED Forces vice chief of staff said the circulation of spurious documents was "nothing new" in the military, and the rebellious junior officers who staged the July 27 failed coup were "gullible" for believing the so-called "Oplan Green Base" document.

Appearing yesterday before the Feliciano Commission that is probing the reasons for the military rebellion, Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia said "white papers" usually surface to discredit a military official and the "Green Base" document was one such document.

The rebellious officers have claimed that the document was one of the reasons why they went and laid siege to the Oakwood Premier in Makati.

They said "Green Base" was the code name for an alleged government master plan to stage bombings in Mindanao that would be blamed on the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

In the Aug. 13 hearing of the commission, the group's spokesperson, Navy Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes said the contents were later "confirmed by actual events," citing the bombing of the Davao City airport and Sasa Wharf in March and April.

Garcia said the junior officers, particularly those serving in Mindanao, did not have "enough inputs to judge" whether the document was authentic since "in such situations most of them are in the field and cannot even read newspapers."

He said that as early as last March, Eduardo Ermita, the presidential adviser on the peace process whose purported signature appeared on the document, had already warned foreign diplomats in a briefing to dismiss the "Green Base" document as a fake in case it found its way to their embassies. *With a report from Carlito Pablo*

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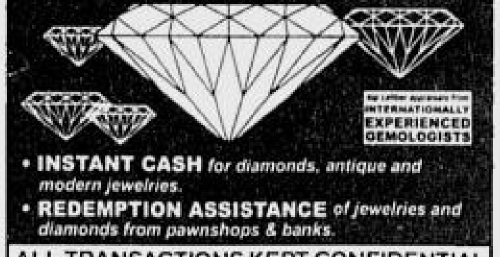

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Amoxicillin susp. 250 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓	49.00	144.00	95.00/bot
Chloramphenicol cap. 500 mg	✓	3.40	37.75	34.35/cap
Chloramphenicol susp. 125 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓	41.40	394.75	353.35/bot
Co-trimoxazole tab (TM-160mg SMZ-800mg)	✓	2.30	24.00	21.70/tab
Co-trimoxazole cap. (TM-80mg SMZ-400mg)	✓	2.60	13.50	10.90/cap
Co-trimoxazole susp. (TM-40mg SMZ-200mg)	✓	25.00	115.75	90.75/bot
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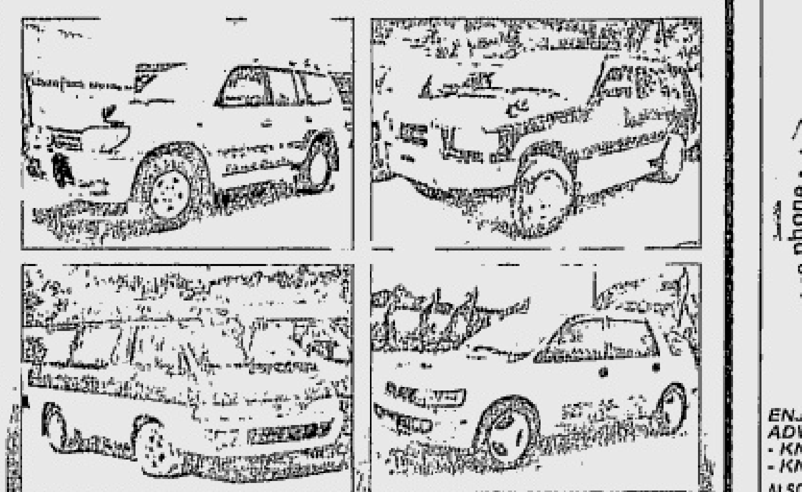

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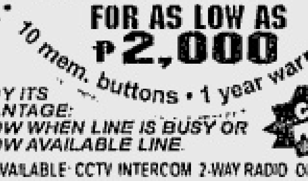

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Ex-PTA chief loses CA appeal

By Jerome Aning

THE COURT of Appeals has denied the petition of former Philippine Tourism Authority general manager Nixon Kua to reconsider a previous ruling that upheld the legality of the appointment of Robert Dean Barbers as his successor.

The CA's 11th Division, presided only by Associate Justice Salvador Valdez Jr., unanimously agreed to reject Kua's motion for reconsideration, saying he had "glossed over" a provision in the PTA charter which he had cited in his petition.

Kua was appointed PTA chief in November 2000. He said his term should end in 2006. But Malacañang said he should have served only up to Oct. 3, 2002, when the original term of Kua's predecessor, Angelito Banayo, expired.

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Today's *What's News* questions:
1. Who plays Elle Woods in Legally Blonde?
   a. Sarah Michelle Gellar
   b. Mandy Moore
   c. Gwyneth Paltrow
   d. Reese Witherspoon
2. Which singer-comedian hosted the MTV Pilipinas 2003 with Ruffa Mae Quinto?
   a. Janno Gibbs
   b. Ogie Alcasid
   c. KC Montero
   d. Michael V
3. The Favorite New Artist at the MTV Pilipinas 2003 is...
   a. Nyoy Volante
   b. Kyla
   c. Nina
   d. Paolo Santos
4. A no-smoking policy is currently in effect in which city in Metro Manila?
   a. Makati
   b. Mandaluyong
   c. Pasig
   d. Quezon City
5. Michael Jordan made what jersey number famous?
   a. 45
   b. 23
   c. 11
   d. 32

Per DTI-NCR Permit. No. 1975, Series of 2003.

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MON. - FRI. (8AM - 7PM) * SAT. (8AM - 5PM)

RP ready for terror attack, seeks access to Hambali

By Gil Cabacungan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said the Philippines is ready to thwart any possible terrorist attack following the arrest last week of Southeast Asia's top terrorist suspect in Thailand.

The President said she has ordered the police, military and other law enforcement agencies to remain on alert amid warnings of possible retaliatory attacks from international terrorist groups with the capture of Hambali, an ally of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden and the former operations chief of the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) terrorist network.

"We are bolstering police visibility and target hardening of vital installations and public places. Vulnerable communities have been mobilized and I call on every citizen to be conscious on the threat," the President said.

Her comments followed a report by a London-based research center saying the Philippines is among five countries most likely to be targeted by terrorists in the next 12 months.

The London-based World Markets Research Center said another Sept. 11-style terrorist attack is "highly likely" in the United States, which ranks fourth in an index assessing the risk to 186 countries.

It ranked Colombia, Israel, Pakistan, the United States and the Philippines, in descending order, as the most likely targets.

Ms Macapagal said the Philippines was in constant touch with its Asean neighbors to swap direct information and intelligence reports on terrorist movements.

She said operations are ongoing in Mindanao as part of "aggressive measures to dismantle terrorist lairs and cells."

Manila earlier warned that the JI could mount retaliatory action after the capture of Riduan Isamuddin alias Hambali.

Hambali, a 36-year-old Islamic scholar, is the accused mastermind of the Bali bombings that killed 202 people last year. He has been indicted by Manila in connection with a series of bombings that killed 22 people on Dec. 30, 2000.

Hambali was captured last week in Thailand, handed over to US authorities and flown to an undisclosed site for interrogation.

The Philippines has formally requested the United States to be allowed access to Hambali, Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said yesterday.

In a diplomatic note sent to the US Embassy invoking a mutual legal assistance treaty, Ople asked that Philippine authorities be allowed access to Hambali and be given any information that the Americans obtain from the suspect.

Ople said the Philippines and other countries should have "the opportunity to mine the wealth of information that Hambali might be able to provide."

"We are interested in subjecting him to Philippine justice, but we will wait for our turn," he said.

Manila's request for access to Hambali would not preclude the Philippines from seeking a possible extradition to face charges in this country later, Ople added. *With wire reports*

Lakay, Manang to bring more rain

TROPICAL depression Lakay has intensified, will remain almost stationary for the next 24 hours and is expected to bring more rains and winds in Luzon and in the Visayas.

This developed even as Pagasa spotted another tropical depression, "Manang," 320 km northeast of Basco, Batanes. Satellite information showed that Manang has maximum sustained winds of 55 kph near the center and is moving northwest at 20 kph.

Pagasa said both weather disturbances will continue to bring monsoon rains and strong winds to Luzon and the Visayas. Those living in coastal areas and near mountain slopes are warned of possible flash floods and landslides.

Storm signal no. 1 has been hoisted over Ilocos Norte, Basco, Batanes, Kalinga, Apayao as Lakay is expected to be 240 km west northwest of Laoag, Ilocos Norte tomorrow afternoon. As of 4 p.m. yesterday, Lakay's winds had intensified to a maximum of 55 kph near the center.

Areas with storm signal no. 1 will experience occasional rains and winds of not more than 55 kph. Coastal waters will be moderate to rough.

Cavite shabu lab raided

CARMONA, Cavite—Police yesterday raided what it said was the province's second biggest shabu laboratory and confiscated 180 kilos of the illegal substance.

Inside the 2,000-sq.m. abandoned warehouse in Barangay Bangkal, the raiding team found 60 high-capacity freezers and other facilities for manufacturing shabu. Police also recovered raw materials such as ephedrine, iodine and ammonium nitrate.

The raid was led by Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya of the Civil Security Group.

Cavite police director Senior Supt. Roberto Rosales said the lab inside Mt. View Industrial Subdivision was next in size only to the one raided by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) last July 25 in Tanza town, only 16 kilometers away.

However, Rosales said, the six suspected lab workers escaped before the team arrived yesterday. He said the lab had operated for less than a year but could produce a ton of shabu per setting.

The authorities were tipped off by the subdivision's guards, who reported seeing several "suspicious-looking" persons frequenting the warehouse, which had not been rented for several years.

Rosales said information about the owner of the warehouse was still being verified, but that the last recorded tenant was one El-neuchi Household Manufacturing Corp. He said his men were also working to locate other possible drug labs in the province.

He also commended the Mt. View residents and guards for helping in the successful operation. *Marlon Ramos and Fausto Tatad, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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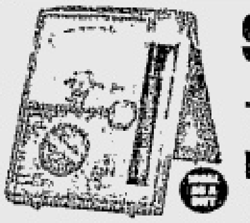

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Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

Pursuant to Section 1, Rule 7 of the Rules of the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC-009), as a mended, the public is hereby notified of the Panel Interview of the old Supreme Court Session Hall, Third Floor, Old Supreme Court Building, Taft Ave., Manila of the following applicants/recommendees for the position of **ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SANDIGAN BAYAN:**

FRIDAY, 29 AUGUST 2003 (10:00 A.M.)

1. Ayson, Ruben C.
2. Deloria, Merlin D.
3. Hernandez, Jose R.

FRIDAY, 29 AUGUST 2003 (2:00 P.M.)

1. Herrera, Oscar C. Jr.
2. Lopez, Romulo A.
3. Villon, Sesinando D.

As stated in the amended rule, the interviews shall be conducted in public.

14 August 2003

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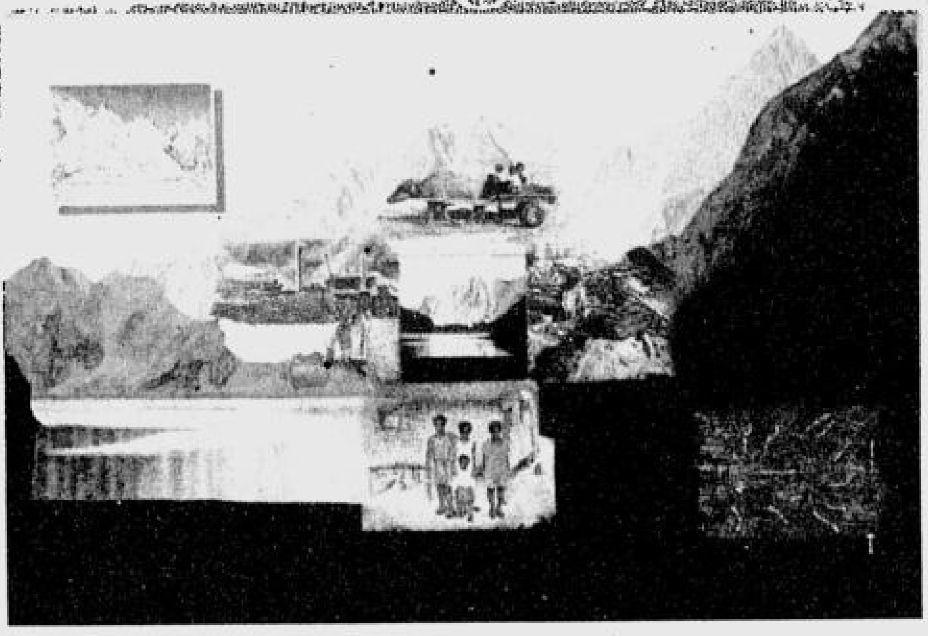
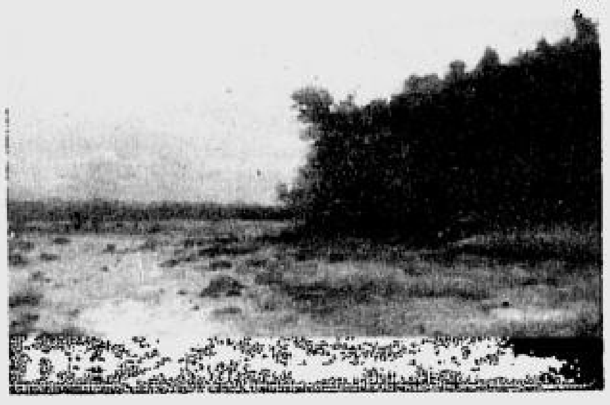
Oil Category

Winners

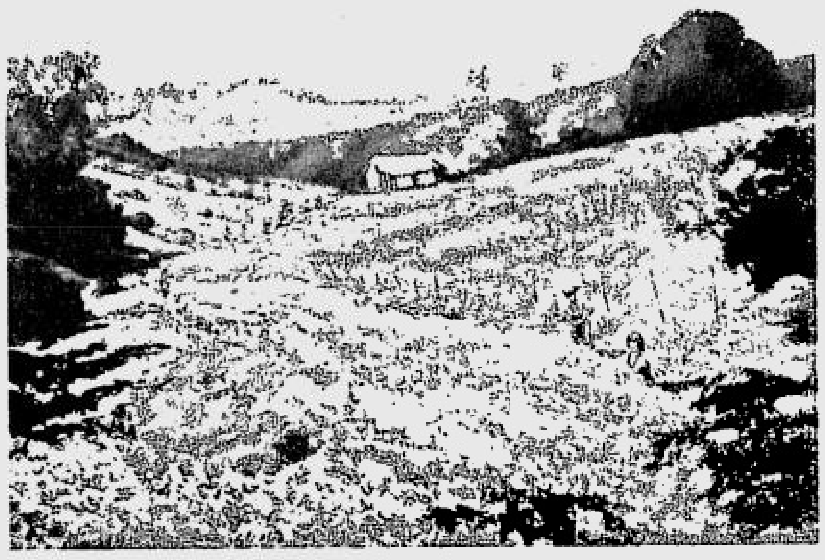
Clockwise: James Neil D.L. Viola, Fernando F. Ramos, Jr. Clint P. Normandia, Ada Grace Venci, Ian Caesar L. Cheng and Rexell S. Livelo



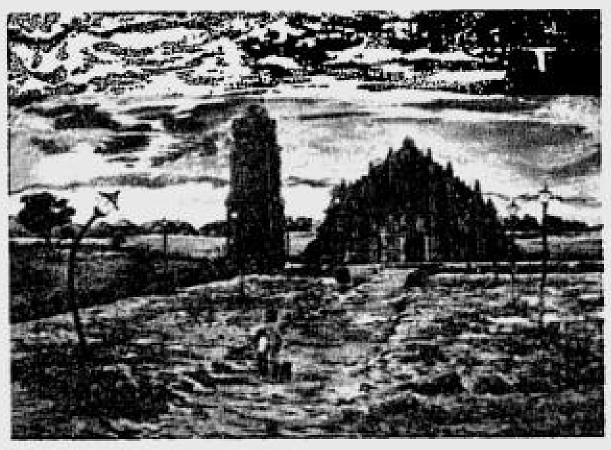
Buhay Katutubo Sa Pinatubo
100 cm x 150 cm
by: Fernando F. Ramos, Jr.
Tarlac State University



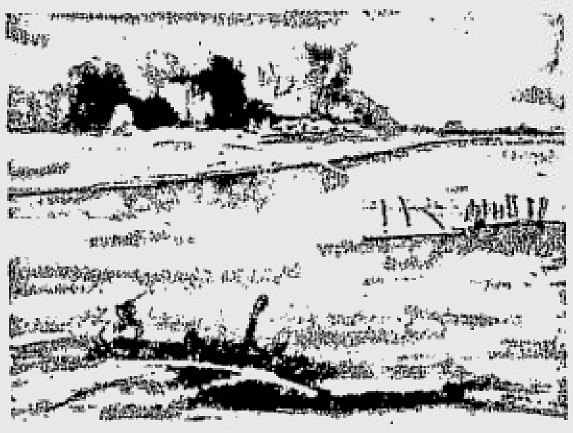
Site of Battle of Paye
122 cm x 183 cm
by: Ian Caesar L. Cheng
Angelicum College



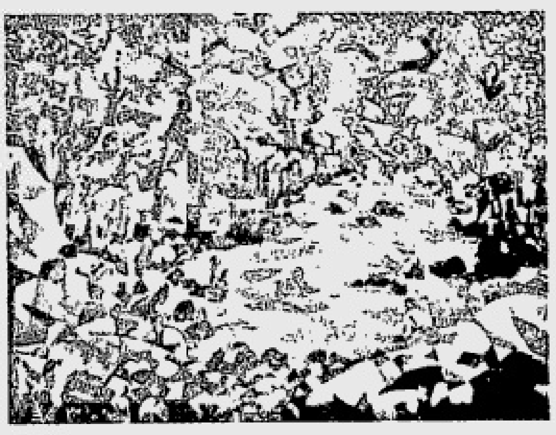
Busay
55.92 cm x 76.25 cm
by: Clint P. Normandia
Cebu Academy of Arts



Paoay Church
86.96 cm x 122 cm
by: Rexell S. Livelo
Philippine Women's University

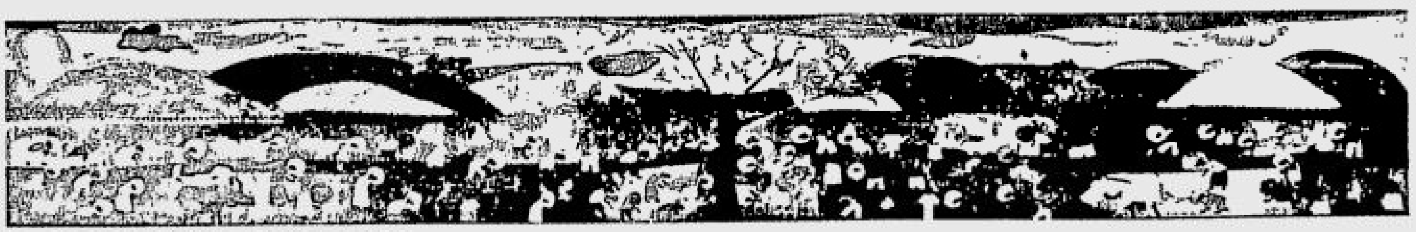


Hintayan sa Pola
57.19 cm x 76.25 cm
by: James Neil D.L. Viola
New Era University

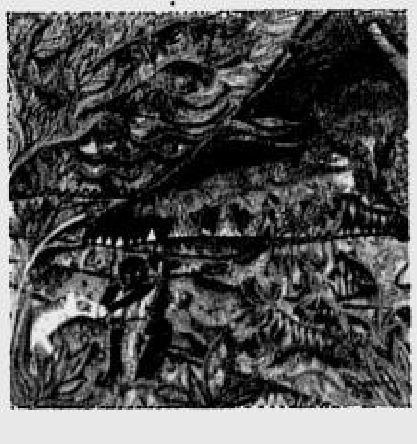


Tagolami River
76.25 cm x 101.66 cm
by: Ada Grace Venci
Lourdes College

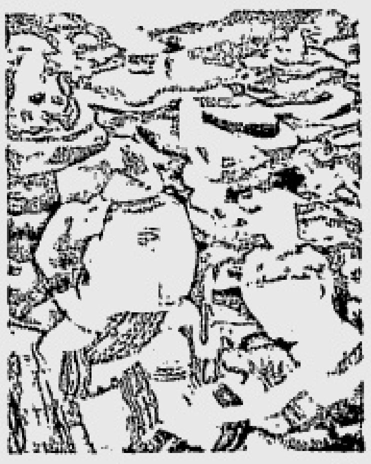
Runners-up



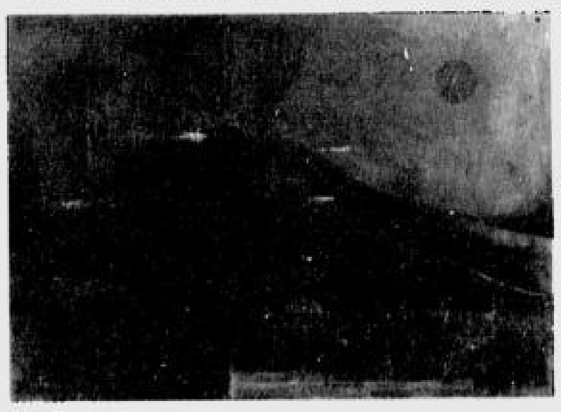
Mga Angel ng Burol
Oil - 30.5 cm x 183 cm
by: Yveese J. Belen
University of Santo Tomas



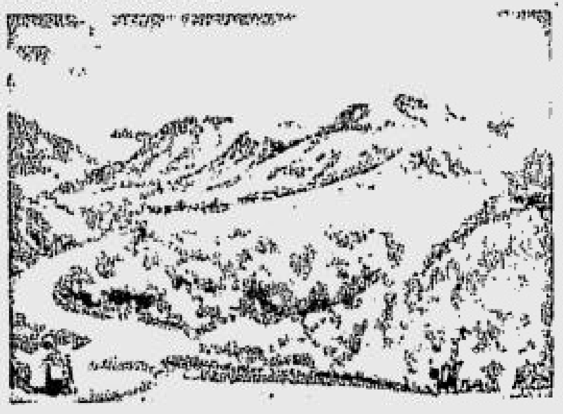
Kay Apo
Oil - 91.5 cm x 91.5 cm
by: Jansen Peter N. Salvatus
University of Santo Tomas



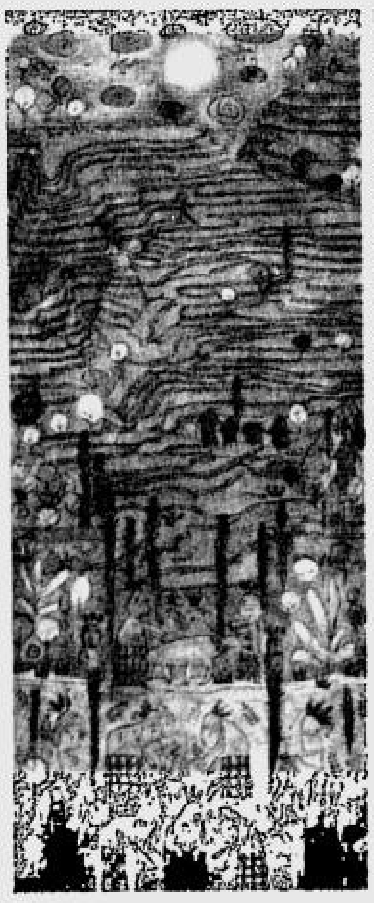
Terrace of Living Tradition
Watercolor - 53 cm x 74.38 cm
by: Joey V. Cobcobo
TUP Manila



Tierra Santa
Watercolor - 91.5 cm x 91.5 cm
by: Mark Ramsel N. Salvatus
MASA Ecological Development, Inc.



Highway in the Sky
Watercolor - 77.5 cm x 95 cm
by: Jose Pempe Y. Ybañez
Cebu Academy of Arts



Makulay Na Hagdan At Masayang Palayan
Oil - 61 cm x 152.5 cm
by: Mark Andy R. Garcia
TUP Manila

DOJ says RP helped Swiss probe of $2-M Perez account

THE PHILIPPINES has already complied with the request of Swiss authorities for help in their investigation of former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez for allegedly laundering $2 million in a Swiss bank account, a ranking justice official said yesterday.

Justice Undersecretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez said the Department of Foreign Affairs responded months ago to the queries of Swiss authorities regarding the "suspicious account" of Perez in Switzerland.

In March this year, the Swiss government wrote the DFA, asking for assistance in their investigation of Perez, his wife Rosario, his brother-in-law Ramon Arceo, and investment banker Ernest Escaler.

According to Gutierrez, the request did not reach the Department of Justice and only the DFA dealt with it.

A Swiss prosecuting magistrate is investigating Perez et al. on suspicion that the $2-million bank account was laundered.

Money laundering is the process of disguising illegal sources of funds derived from criminal activities like corruption, smuggling, drug trafficking, kidnapping for ransom, illegal gambling, and computer fraud schemes.

Gutierrez said the DFA sent a letter to the Swiss government and gave the necessary answers to their queries although the Philippines and Switzerland do not have an existing mutual legal assistance treaty.

"We do not have a legal assistance treaty with them so there is no obligation on the part of the Philippine government to extend assistance," Gutierrez said. She said the two countries signed one last year but it has not been ratified yet.

She said she did not know if Swiss authorities were satisfied with the Philippines' reply to the queries.

Gutierrez said the Swiss government also would not have divulged information on the results of their investigation since it is not yet finished.

She said requesting states usually insist on confidentiality when asking for help through diplomatic channels.

DFA sources earlier said that Swiss authorities sent a note verbale to the DFA detailing bank transactions involving Perez, his wife Rosario, Arceo and Escaler in Switzerland.

These transactions were the opening of accounts at the EFG Private Bank in Geneva by the three in 2001 and by Escaler's Lucky Clover Enterprises in 2002.

The joint account of Arceo and Rosario Perez allegedly received $1 million and $699,986 on separate dates from an Escaler account in Coutts AG Hong Kong before the joint account was closed in October 2001.

According to Swiss investigators, deposits from the closed joint account were then transferred to Escaler's account with EFG.

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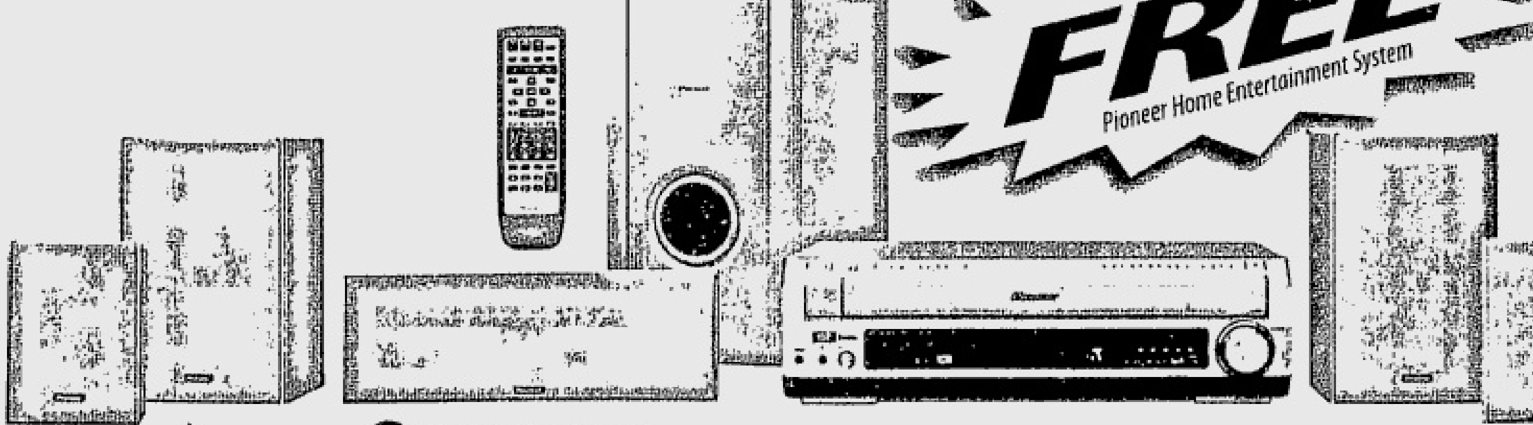

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NOYNOY'S BOTTOM LINE

No mercy for Ninoy's killers

By Carlito Pablo

REP. BENIGNO "Noynoy" Aquino III yesterday said his family had turned down appeals from emissaries seeking his family's assent for the commutation of the double-life sentences of the 15 remaining soldiers convicted for the 1983 Aquino-Galman double murder cases.

Aquino declined to name the emissaries, but said they included a prominent lawyer and a police general.

"We told them that the barest minimum these soldiers can do is to admit what they have done and show remorse," Aquino said.

Tomorrow is the 20th anniversary of the assassination of former Senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. and the killing of military fall guy Rolando Galman.

The double murder sparked a tumultuous series of events that led to the downfall of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 and propelled Aquino's widow Corazon to the presidency.

Asked whether his family has forgiven the convicted soldiers, the lawmaker quipped: "My mom is very Christian. At one point, she supposedly said she can perhaps forgive but won't forget."

But for the young Aquino, "reconciliation has to be on the basis of justice." He argued that even the Christian faith prescribed "that if we were to ask forgiveness for our sins, there must (first) be an admission of the wrongdoing."

He pointed out that the convicted soldiers were naturally bound to say—which they did—that they had merely followed orders.

"But soldiers are required to obey only lawful orders," Aquino insisted. "Assassination is not lawful."

There were two crimes committed, he said. "First was the killing, second was the cover-up." Although he could not prove anything before the courts, he added, "we all know what happened."

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez earlier said there were two "unaccounted for" military officers who could shed more light on the double-murder cases. He identified them as former Col. Romeo Ochoco and Capt. Felipe Valerio.

As Tanodbayan, Gonzalez had prosecuted the case before the Sandiganbayan. He said Ochoco, who had been with the Presidential Security Command, was now reportedly in Australia, and that Valerio, commander of the team that shot down Galman at the tarmac of the then Manila International Airport, might be in Canada.

In 1990, a special division of the Sandiganbayan convicted 16 military officers and men. The highest-ranking in the group, former Brig. Gen. Luther Custodio died in prison.

ZONTA HOLDS DISTRICT CONFERENCE IN MANILA

GOMEZ

District 17 of Zonta International announces the holding of its 12th District Conference on October 10-12, 2003 at the EDSA Shangri-la Hotel, Mandaluyong City, Philippines.

With the theme, "Together, Let's Make Waves!" the DisCon is envisioned to bring together the officers and members of the Zonta Clubs from Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines. No less than 500 delegates from the Zonta Clubs in the component countries of District 17 are expected to attend. An interesting note is the fact that the incumbent governor is a Filipina, Ma. Imelda "Dandy" S. Gomez.

Every other year, District 17 holds a Conference in the different member countries to promote the objectives of Zonta International and foster fellowship among its members. This year's Conference aims to serve as a venue for information exchange and experience on sharing on programs, projects and plans that address the issues and needs of women in the member countries.

The Organizing Committee has defined specific thematic concerns for discussion during the Conference, namely: "The Role of Women in Chaotic World" (Advocates of Peace); "The Domestic Rights of Asian Women in the 21st Century – Fact or Fiction?" (Rights of Women); and "Save The Earth or Perish" (Environment and Sustainable Development).

Hosting this auspicious event are the Philippine-based Zonta clubs under the able leadership of District 17 Governor Ma. Imelda Gomez with Nonie Basilio as Overall Chairperson. Co-chairs for the event are Vilma Vergel de Dios, Baby Perez and Tes Castro.

For further details, members can write to the District 17 Conference Secretariat at the 5th floor, Physicians' Center, Victor R. Potenciano Medical Center, EDSA, Mandaluyong City, or call 535-5664.

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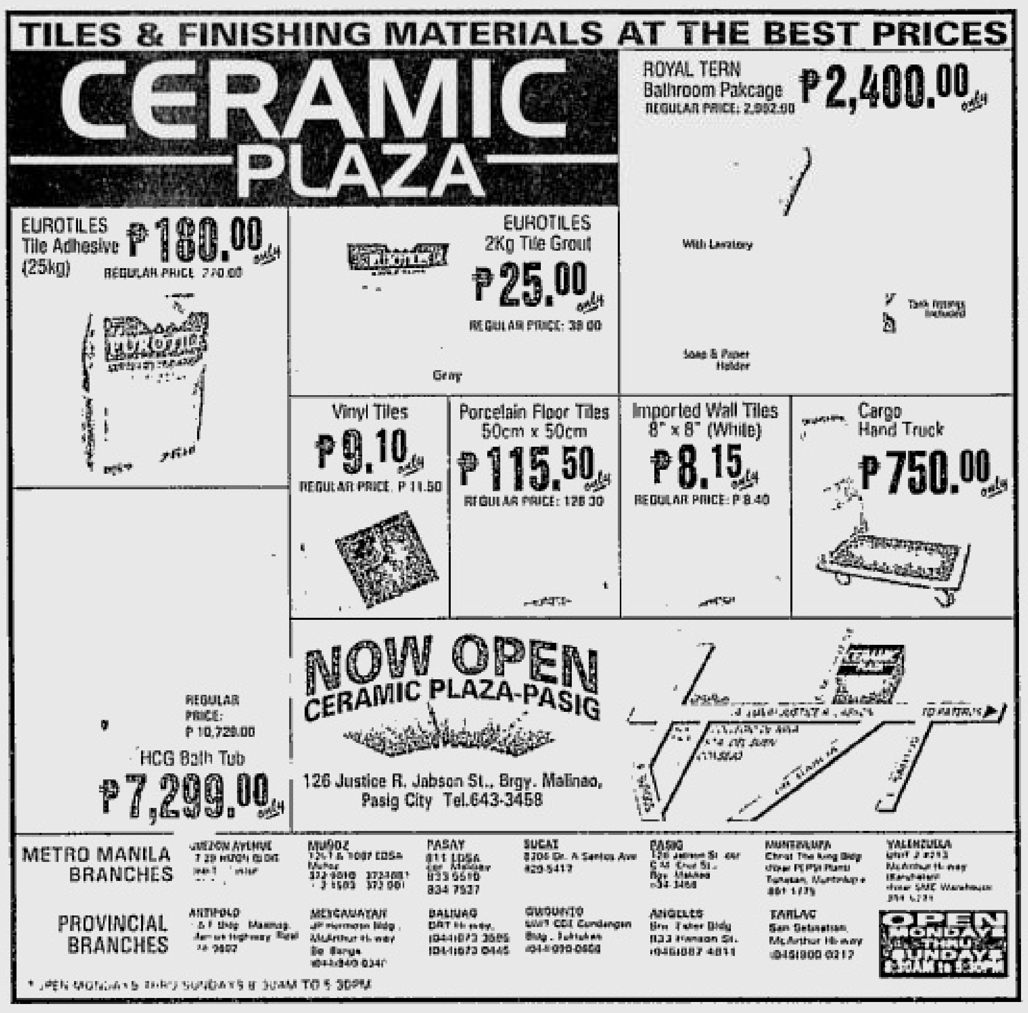

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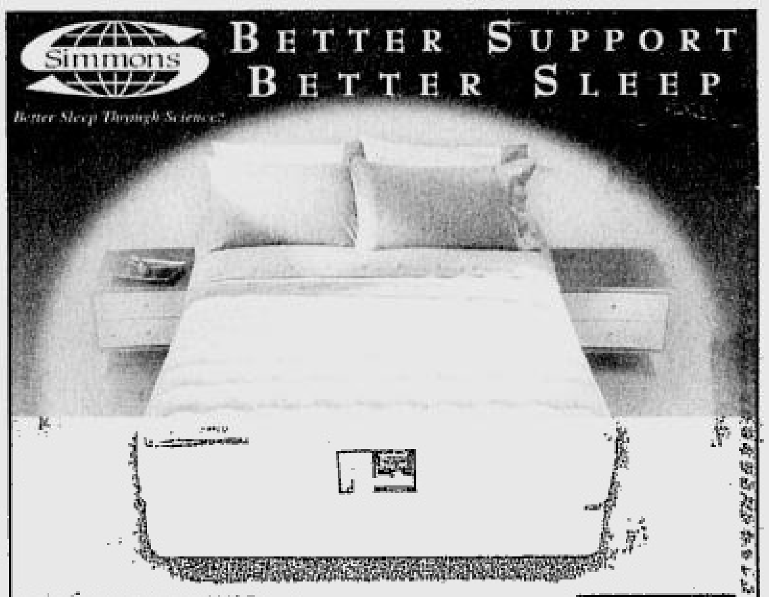

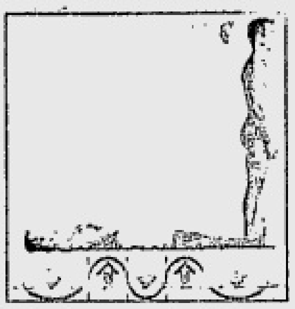

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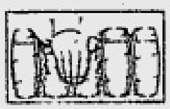

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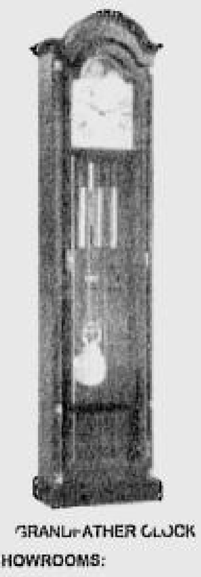
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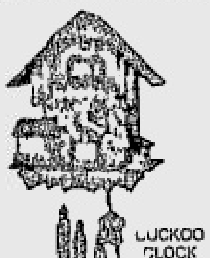
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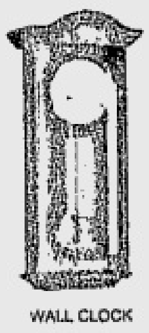
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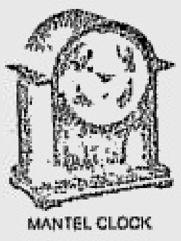
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Intolerance

EDITORIAL

HAS President Macapagal-Arroyo run out of subordinates upon whom to vent her ill-temper? After giving a public tongue-lashing to a long list of officials that includes then Administrator Anthony Abad of the National Food Authority, General Manager Edgar Manda of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and Assistant Secretary Roberto Lastimoso of the Land Transportation Office, Ms Macapagal has turned on someone who doesn't owe her appointment to her, much less owe her an explanation. On Friday in Calapan, Mindoro, a visibly angry Ms Macapagal berated GMA 7 reporter Tina Panganiban-Perez in front of about 100 other people and accused her of "abetting rebellion."

Perez didn't know what hit her. And the public does not know either what the President's beef was against the poor reporter.

Ms Macapagal said government agents saw Perez with the suspected patron and mentor of the rebellious young military officers, Sen. Gregorio Honasan, while the nation was in a state of rebellion. "That is abetting rebellion," she declared. Then when an aide asked Perez if she had interviewed Maj. Gen. Alfonso Dagudag, commander of the Southern Luzon Command who was said to be ready to talk against the senator, the President cattily remarked that perhaps Perez didn't want to do the interview since "she only wants Honasan."

That's one reason she is a President and not a reporter—luckily. Given the context of the rebellion, any reporter worthy of the name would have certainly sought out the retired lieutenant colonel and serial coup maker over the general about whom few civilians have heard. And to her credit, Perez got ahead of the pack.

Did her interview encourage the rebellion or, worse, make her an accomplice of the rebellious soldiers? In the first place, Perez said the interview was conducted one day after the President lifted the state of rebellion, so what rebellion was there to abet? And since when was interviewing a suspected rebel leader who made himself "inaccessible" a crime?

One side in a conflict will always say that airing the other side provides encouragement to the enemy. But getting both sides is a basic function of media, aside from providing a medium for continued dialogue. Ms Macapagal should know that the job of determining when a reporter goes beyond responsible reporting to engage in enemy propaganda is best left to his editors.

It would not have been so bad if all the President did was play amateur editor. But in giving Perez a public tongue-lashing, Ms Macapagal again exhibited an unhealthy intolerance for opinions she doesn't agree with.

Even worse is that the police are now openly admitting that they have been conducting surveillance on journalists whom they believe to have contacts with "enemies of the state." PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane said the police have been monitoring the movements of some media personalities and accused some of them of providing information "to the other side." But he said the police were not trying to curtail press freedom and that journalists were free to interview those who are fighting the government provided their reports did not jeopardize national security.

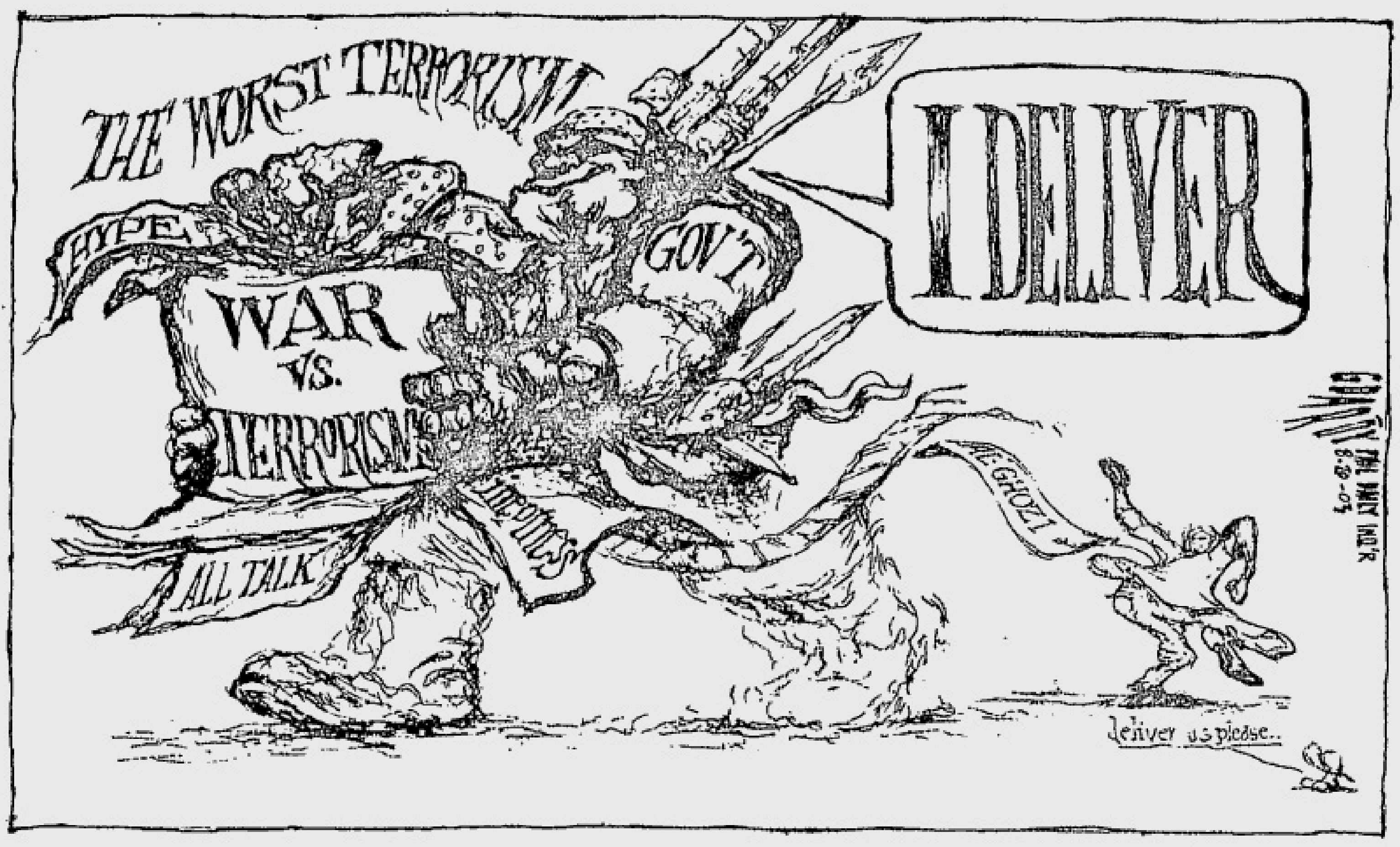
For journalists covering insurgencies, surveillance by the police practically comes with the territory. Government intelligence agents are expected to trail anyone and tap into source to search for rebels and criminals. But for the chief of the PNP to describe it as practically a standard operating procedure is scary. It's the police that define who are the "enemies of state" and they are the ones who will say what constitutes threats to national security. If they expand their definitions liberally, then the press loses its freedom completely.

Priorities in Monrovia

FOREIGN COMMENT

THE DAY after the grim farce of ex-President Charles Taylor's flight from Monrovia, international aid agencies have rushed to tackle the human tragedy which he left behind. The top priority now is for proper security, if the de facto ceasefire is not to collapse in June. A second Security Council resolution is needed urgently, backed by funds and troops, to enable a more substantial UN peacekeeping effort with wider powers—and much better discipline than in previous efforts. Only then will there be a realistic chance of achieving a political settlement acceptable to the rebel factions.

The Guardian (London)



There's so much money in laundry

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

I NEVER thought there is so much money to be earned from the laundry business. We used to feel sorry for *lavanderas* working their butts off to earn a few pesos washing other people's clothes. But here is First Gentleman Jose Arroyo making P270 million and former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez making $2 million (P110 million at today's exchange rate) in the laundry business. And they didn't even look like they worked or got their hands wet. From now on, expect young people changing their ambitions—from wanting to be pilots, doctors or lawyers to wanting to be *lavanderos* and *lavanderas*.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson devoted one whole privilege speech denouncing the laundry business, in particular, Arroyo for washing dirty money. "What's wrong with that?" asked our househelp. "*Pag madumi, labhan*."

Only a few days ago, I read that money is very dirty, full of bacteria and germs that cause various types of diseases. Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura had this television interview (before he was suspended by the Court of Appeals) where he said money is crawling with dirt and disease-causing germs, as he encouraged the few people, who were lucky enough to have them, to change their dirty notes with fresh ones from the BSP.

Isn't that exactly what Arroyo and Perez have done, depositing dirty money in banks and withdrawing clean ones?

People feel sorry for themselves when they have little or no money when they should instead be happy. The less money you have, the less exposure to germs. And the less germs you come in contact with, the less chances for you to get sick.

So I don't understand why people are always scrambling for more and more money, when it has been proven time and time again that money can shorten your life. *Mitsa ng buhay*, as they say. Money is not only the root of all evil but also of most diseases.

Me and my family are thankful that we have been lucky. We now ascribe our good health to never having enough money, a circumstance that has made me much happier. When my wife and children gripe about not having any money, I can now show them the newspaper stories and tell them: "Stop complaining. You're lucky not to have money so you don't get sick. Look at these people," pointing to the photos of Arroyo and Perez, "they have so much money and now they're in trouble."

I also intend to use the same excuse to the scores of poor people complaining of not having any money and asking to borrow some from me. Thank God for Lacson, he saved us from this persistent problem: feeling sorry for ourselves because we don't have money. Now I feel happy if I don't have any—which is quite often.

For that, Lacson deserves to be elected president. He has already discovered the answer to poverty which a succession of presidents in the past failed to solve. I can already see the slogan of his administration: "Poverty is the way to health and happiness."

* * *

There is logic in MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando's single dispatch scheme for buses, even if its initial implementation was a little confusing. There are too many buses and too few passengers on Edsa. The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) erred in giving too many bus line franchises. So did the government for granting bus operators easy loans to buy these second-hand lumbering buses that now congest our streets. If the 3,000 buses plying the Edsa route belong to one company, this is exactly what it would do—dispatch them at regular intervals, depending on the needs of the passengers. That would save fuel as well as wear and tear on the buses and their tires. The rate of return from each unit will therefore increase.

But as of now, there are so many buses out on the streets competing for the scarce passengers. We all see these buses (only LTFRB's Dante Lantin doesn't see them) strung out bumper-to-bumper but half empty on Edsa. Thus, they fill up the streets when they're not needed there.

In truth, we can do without buses on Edsa, and without jeepneys on Rizal and Taft avenues. That's what the Metro rail and the LRT are for—to take the place of the buses and jeepneys to decongest the streets below. Elevated rails are the most efficient mass transport system. And if Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza were smart, he would hurry up the rehabilitation of the Philippine National Railways. An efficient PNR will solve a lot of problems, including squatting.

But the elevated rails are already crammed with passengers during rush hours, you say, so commuters take the buses and jeepneys.

But isn't the answer here to field more coaches and trains? That's what the Metro rail and LRT should be doing, instead of cooking up tricky ways to overprice project costs.

Not enough trains and coaches? Then bring in more. It's elementary. The more trains and coaches, the more trips, the more passengers carried, more income and more profit. No need to overprice and overcharge.

The PNR's commuter rail and ferry services in the Pasig River and Manila Bay, from Manila to Cavite and back, will also help relieve the crush on the streets. In fact, additional ferries servicing the coastal towns (from the Camanava area to downtown Manila, Pasay, Parañaque and Las Piñas; and along the shores of Laguna lake) will make travel in Metro Manila faster, easier, cheaper, cooler and less irritating.

Ping!

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IT'S a testament to Filipino gallows humor that the text jokes went flying thick and fast yesterday. Reminiscent of the Erap impeachment when Eraptions erupted every day in the e-mail and cell phones. The drollest one I got was that we now have a new president. She is Gloria Macapagal-Pidal.

GMA has sought to defuse Ping Lacson's allegations of corruption against the First Family by saying she is open to a lifestyle check. The same lifestyle check she has been carrying out on officials of offices notorious for *tong* (BIR, Customs, Immigration), and lately to some generals, including Angelo Reyes—the former to get high-profile media coverage and the latter to appease the restive young officers.

It doesn't help.

To begin with, it merely draws attention to the fact that she, her husband and their circle of friends have not been the subject of a lifestyle check. And that if Lacson had not come out yelling his head off about yet another attempt by a presidential couple to add a fictitious member to the country's already bloated population—a fellow named Jose Pidal—they never would have. If GMA had been serious about a lifestyle check, she should have socked it to herself, her family and her friends before anybody else. That is leading by example.

But more than that, as I've always said, a lifestyle check is to corruption as a Pap smear is to cancer. But I insult Pap smear, which is probably a better method for detecting cancer than a lifestyle check is to detecting corruption. You don't have to watch too many movies about people getting caught after a heist by showing the world they have just come into a sudden fortune to know shrewd thieves don't do that. If they have the discipline to plan heists, they have the discipline to know how to use the money. Much of it goes through the activity the Chinese in San Francisco were once associated with—called laundering, though this kind of laundering doesn't leave starch.

Not everyone likes to surround himself with Blue Label and drink himself silly till the wee hours of morning. Not everyone wants to impress pretty bank managers by signing multi-million-peso checks in their presence with another name. Not everyone wants to wear baubles or build mansions in plain view of everyone—not least because of kidnapping. As I've said before, you do a lifestyle check on Ferdinand Marcos and you'll be impressed by his abstemiousness. Even his plentiful sexual dalliances were never visible to, well, the naked eye.

You almost miss Erap. At least he was transparent about his crookedness, if completely—as was the hallmark of his rule—unwittingly. Stupidity in leaders is a virtue in this country, given that power is an engraved invitation to pillage. I've always said that I subscribe to John Locke's dictum that a government that governs least governs best. In this country, it does. A government that governs least pillages least. A strong republic pillages most.

Mike Arroyo and friends have countered by pointing to Lacson's motives. Lacson, they say, is trying to deflect attention from his culpability in the Kuratong Baleleng massacre, sandbagging the Senate inquiry into his involvement in "narco-politics" and electioneering ahead of everyone.

I agree. Those are very probably Lacson's motives. He does have something to hide in the Kuratong Baleleng case. I was one of those who applauded when the Supreme Court reopened the case—even if the motives of that Court, too, have become suspect with the appointment of GMA's favorite lawyer, Antonio Carpio, there. I've always said Lacson may not get away with so gross a violation of human rights.

And I've always thought Lacson had a hand in narco-politics. But suspicion is not proof, and proof is what it takes not just to convict someone but to stop presuming him innocent. My complaint has never been that government dug up dirt on Lacson, it has been that it did so clumsily. If Victor Corpus had done half as good a demolition job on Lacson as Lacson has done on his boss, Lacson would not have been around to do it. He would be in jail. Or anywhere except the Senate. You accuse someone of stashing loot in the United States and fail to back it up, you should not be head of AFP intelligence. Or maybe you should. That is where you deserve to be.

None of it blunts Lacson's attack. The only thing wrong with the pot calling the kettle black is that he thinks he is not so, not that the kettle is black. Neither a lifestyle check nor a check on Lacson's motives will make Lacson's accusations go away. The most damning of all being the existence and signature of one Jose Pidal which bears a striking resemblance to the existence and signature of one Jose Miguel Arroyo. I don't think it will require the services of the CSI to show they are a perfect match.

To his utter lack of credit, Corpus never produced a corpus of evidence remotely resembling this. Erap must be laughing his head off where he is and telling himself his only mistake was falling for every skirt. While at this, Bishop Socrates Villegas has his answer why there is no dancing in the streets after government recovered some of Danding Cojuangco's and Marcos's ill-gotten wealth. Recovering ill-gotten wealth means nothing if it just passes from one set of crooks to another.

I was almost tempted to consider changing my son's name after this. But it's not just that I would be wrecking the perfect euphony of Jose Miguel de Quiros, I would also be doing injustice to this country's national hero, to whom much injustice has already been done—Jose Velarde and Jose Pidal!—and to a brew that once gave me much pleasure but now only gives me gout.

I will suggest instead that Jose Miguel Arroyo consider changing his name to Joseph Ejercito Pidal.

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

A nasty turn on the road to 2004 elections

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE PRIVILEGE speech of Sen. Panfilo Lacson, accusing the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, of allegedly siphoning more than P200 million of campaign contributions into secret bank accounts, marks a nasty turn in the muddled turbulent atmosphere ahead of the 2004 presidential campaign.

The speech was a shotgun attack that did not target the President directly but sprayed pellets at a number of people who, Lacson claimed, received pay-offs from the alleged laundered funds for giving evidence on Lacson's alleged criminal activities.

Among those named to have received pay-offs from the fund was Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus, former intelligence chief of the armed forces, with whom Lacson has had a running feud over Senate inquiries into Lacson's laundering and drug-cartel links, as well as criminal cases stemming from the Kuratong Baleleng massacre.

Lacson detailed a "paper trail," pointing to Arroyo as the clearing house of the "laundered" fund, hoping to implicate the President through guilt by association. Based on the diffused trajectories of the Lacson attack, the speech sought to inflict political damage on the Macapagal administration, without focusing on the President herself. The speech also appeared to be Lacson's counter-attack on Corpus as the senator faces an eminent Supreme Court decision on his involvement in the Kuratong Baleleng massacre.

Lacson said his speech was only the first chapter of what he promised to be "startling revelations" of corruption of the Macapagal administration. It will take more hard evidence for Lacson to make a case than what his speech has detailed. Thus far, the details center on Mike Arroyo. We have to wait for the next chapters to know what further details he can disclose or whether the revelations will be as "startling " as promised. If Lacson expects to spark a momentum for a move to impeach the President, he must have to build evidence of corruption leading to the President herself.

Lacson's attack appears to replicate the script of the impeachment trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada. The impeachment process started with the exposé by former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson. The focus of Singson's exposé on Estrada's involvement in the *jueteng* racket was Estrada—not just collateral persons. That was the strength of Singson's case and explains why it caught fire to ignite an impeachment process.

Even Lacson's exposé design is vintage Estrada impeachment template. Not known for originality, Lacson showed alleged secret bank accounts in the name of Jose Pidal, into which the fund was funneled, imitating the Jose Velarde account that pinned down Estrada's bank accounts. Lacson should remember that events don't replicate themselves in stereotyped forms: The apparent weakness of Lacson's case is that it is not a direct attack on the President and is dissipating his ammunition on the margin.

The Lacson blast came in the wake of the failed coup attempt of July 28, from which the Macapagal administration is still reeling. The coup, that was swiftly quashed, prefigures the turbulent environment in the run-up to the 2004 elections. And the Lacson attack, whose general theme is corruption, if proven by evidence, can only add fuel to the grievances of the young officers who staged the coup. Their grievances were centered on corruption in the military establishment. The insularity of their focus is responsible for the failure of their grievances to galvanize public support although they have also denounced in general terms the climate of corruption in Philippine politics. By focusing on Mike Arroyo, the person closest to the President, Lacson sought to push corruption charges into the doorsteps of the presidency, and to fuel public disenchantment over political corruption.

As Lacson prepares further speeches in his campaign to link the President directly to the money laundering charges now raging over the head of Mike Arroyo and as the Senate committees prepare to hold hearings on the charges, the nation's attention will now shift from the hearings on the failed coup. The Senate has decided to end hearings on the coup and has left the task of inquiring into the causes of the coup to the Feliciano Commission.

As in the Estrada impeachment, the Senate once again takes center stage as the arena on which the battle for the presidency in 2004 will be fought in an atmosphere of intensified mudslinging from both sides. Although Lacson has opened his offensive without clean hands—he should take more than he can give—neither the Macapagal administration nor Lacson is unlikely to come out unscathed in this bruising combat, in which no weapons of demolishing reputations are spared.

The Lacson attack has, indeed, set the stage of the acrimonious tone of the 2004 campaign, in which issues of national development will be pushed aside and which will only narrow the choices of the people for an inspired leadership untainted by corruption. How much damage the Macapagal administration suffers from the attack will depend on whether Lacson can pin the money laundering and corruption charges on the presidency. What Lacson has done so far is that he has unleashed the first attack by naming Mike Arroyo and has given shape through his charges what the Manila rumor mill has been churning about the back channel activities of Mike Arroyo. Now that the gossip has taken a crystallized form through the privilege speech, Mike Arroyo can come to grips with the charges and answer them, instead of fighting shadows.

When immunity is abused

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ONE of the most remarkable things about Sen. Ping Lacson's privilege speech last Monday was the impunity with which he could trot out the names of individuals—some of them government officials, but the others private citizens—and link them to what he deemed were nefarious activities being carried out by the First Gentleman.

It's enough to strike fear in the heart of anyone who's ever had occasion to enter a building in Makati. Who knows whether frequenting a building, even for purely legitimate and innocent reasons, could earn one regular surveillance from the office of a senator of the Republic? And whether it's enough to earn a feature role in a power point presentation broadcast nationwide?

It's really up to the appropriate committees to determine whether Mike Arroyo committed a crime when he, as alleged by Lacson, deposited more than P200 million from campaign contributions into secret bank accounts, at least one of which was under a false name.

But if I remember right, didn't former senator Miriam Defensor Santiago, defending former President Erap against charges of amassing hidden wealth, state that it was perfectly acceptable for a candidate to salt away campaign contributions for future use? Why was it fine for Erap but a crime deserving of sensational expose on the floor when done by Mr. Arroyo?

Indeed, there was an obvious attempt to replicate the audio-visual presentation made by then Rep. (now senator) Joker Arroyo at the start of the impeachment trial, complete with a re-run of the comparison of signatures between President Estrada and Jose Velarde then, and Mike Arroyo and Jose Pidal now.

But while Joker Arroyo sought to make his case by citing documentary evidence and clear violations of the law, Lacson sought to embroider his exposé with innuendoes and attempts at clever asides, including playing around with the names of people he was implicating. ("Toh," he noted, could be read as "hot," referring to the surname of Mike Arroyo's secretary-accountant.)

* * *

PARTICULARLY distasteful was the reference to the President's husband as "The Incredible Hulk," no doubt a sly allusion to his weight and size, as well as to the outsize influence he wields within his wife's administration.

But ridiculing Mike Arroyo does not in any way strengthen Lacson's case. It may have earned him sympathetic nods and conspiratorial chuckles, but there was no need to stoop to such tactics. It only proves that the privilege speech was not so much to call for legislative remedies on bank secrecy laws or campaign finance, as Lacson claimed, as to earn publicity mileage and tar his enemies wholesale.

Among those mentioned in Lacson's "exposé" were three journalists: Ramon Tulfo of this paper, Alex Magno, who's better known as a political analyst but also writes a column for the Star, and Star columnist Jarius Bondoc and his wife Marissa.

All three columnists just happen to be consistent critics of Lacson, so their inclusion in Lacson's roster of "frequent visitors" to the LTA building cannot be all that "objective."

* * *

JARIUS and Marissa Bondoc, who are friends of mine (as are Mon Tulfo and Alex Magno), have already issued a statement rebutting the senator's sly allegations, because they were never accused directly of participation in the money laundering or salting activities.

Lacson's allegations, they said "confirm our strong suspicions that he not only has put us under surveillance but also is responsible for the death threats we have been getting."

Bondoc has written extensively on "narco-politicians," those who allegedly not only have connections with drug lords, but also finance their campaigns with drug money. "My investigative columns...have always been based on documents, sworn testimonies and interviews," says Jarius, but Lacson apparently attributes those hard-hitting columns "to my wife's supposed visits to the LTA building...

"That building is where our long-time personal, corporate and libel lawyers hold office. My wife occasionally goes there on errands to drop off and pick up documents for me, or to seek legal counsel. I myself have visited our lawyers for similar advice and to inquire about legal actions against death threats to my family, including our teenage daughter," Bondoc clarifies.

* * *

JARIUS says the threats against him and his family reached fever pitch in June-September 2001 when the Senate inquiry on narco-politics were ongoing. But to this day, he adds, he still gets threats by way of text messages and phone calls.

Bondoc recalls that he mentioned his concerns to a media handler of Lacson only last June, with the PR man promising to arrange a one-on-one meeting with the senator, which never came to pass. "Now we know why," says Jarius. "All this time Lacson has been having my wife tailed. I can only attribute this to a desire by this presidential wannabe to intimidate me, especially at a time when the Senate is about to deliberate on the floor the tri-committee report on his criminal activities.

"Needless to say, we shall now visit our lawyers again to determine what legal action must be taken against a pol(itician) who uses parliamentary immunity to assail imagined enemies, much more resorts to illegal tactics."

Indeed, I might have been more impressed by Lacson's exposé if it had been made outside the Senate and without the protective mantle of parliamentary immunity. Maybe, the President, and even her husband, need to face the music and accept the charges as part of the job. But what defense do ordinary citizens, journalists or not, have against public officials who persist in dragging their names into the partisan arena?

Ninoy and Pepe in the same boat

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

EACH year on Aug. 21, I remember that terrible afternoon 20 years ago. We were waiting in the then Manila International Airport to catch a glimpse of Ninoy Aquino returning home. In prison as in exile, he assumed, for me at least, almost mythical proportions—one man who seemed to embody collective opposition to the Marcos government. Unlike Jose Rizal and the heroes of the 19th century, Ninoy was recorded on audio and videotape, enabling us to hear his last words and notice his grim face shortly before he was led down to the tarmac and shot. We have no visuals of the last moment, just the sound of gunfire and screaming, then an image of him in white lying on the ground beside another dead man in utility uniform. Twenty years have passed and we still do not have the full story of his assassination.

Rizal was in the same boat in 1892. Instead of staying alive abroad, he decided to return home. Convinced that he would be killed, he left two letters to be opened and published after his death. Unlike Ninoy, he had to wait another four years to meet his destiny, but these letters give us a glimpse into a man who knew his place in history and did not run away. One letter to his parents reads:

"The love that I have always professed you has induced me to take this step which only the future can say if it is sensible or not. Success judges things according to their consequences; but whether favorable or unfavorable, let it be said that my duty dictated it to me, and it does not matter if I die in its fulfillment.

"I know that I have made you suffer greatly but I am not repenting of what I have done, and if I had to begin anew, I would again do the same thing that I did, because that is my duty. Gladly I depart to expose myself to danger, not to atone for my faults (for on this point I do not believe I have committed any), but to finish my work and to confirm with my example what I have always preached.

"Man ought to die for his duty and his convictions. I maintain all the ideas that I have expressed concerning the state and the future of my country, and I will die gladly for her, and nay, to obtain justice and tranquility for you.

"I risk my life with pleasure to save so many innocent persons, so many nephews, so many children of friends and strangers, who are suffering because of me. What am I? Only one man, almost without a family, quite disenchanted with life. I have had many deceptions, and my future is dark, and it will be very dark if it is not illumined by the light, the dawn of my native land. Whereas there are so many beings full of hope and fancies who perhaps may all be happy with my death, which I hope will satisfy my enemies, and they will no longer persecute so many innocent persons. Until a certain point their hatred of me is justified, not however with respect to my parents and relatives.

"If luck is against me, let everybody know that I will die happy with the thought that my death has ended all their bitterness. Return to our native land and be happy there.

"Until the last moment of my life I will think of you and wish you all kinds of happiness."

The other letter addressed to the Filipinos—to us—is similar and reads:

"The step that I have taken, or I am about to take, is undoubtedly very perilous, and I need not say that I have pondered on it a great deal. I realize that everyone is opposed to it; but I realize also that hardly anybody knows what is going on in my heart. I cannot live knowing that many are suffering unjust persecution on my account; I cannot live seeing my parents suffering in exile, deprived of the comforts of home, far from their native land and their friends; I cannot live seeing my brothers and their large families persecuted like criminals. I prefer to face death cheerfully and gladly give my life to free so many innocent persons from unjust persecution.

"I know that, at present, the future of my country gravitates in some degree towards me, that at my death, many would rejoice, and consequently many are longing for my downfall. So what? I have duties of consequence above all else; I have moral obligations towards the families who suffer, toward my aged parents whose sighs pierce my heart; I know that I alone, even with my death, can make them happy by returning them to their native land and to the tranquility of their home. My parents are all that I have, but my country has many sons still who can take it to advantage.

"Moreover, I wish to show those who deny us patriotism that we know how to die for our duty and our convictions. What matters death if one dies for what one loves, for native land and adored beings?

"If I know that I were the only pillar of Philippine politics and were I convinced that my countrymen were going to make use of my services, perhaps I would hesitate to take this step; but there are still others who can take my place to advantage. Furthermore, there are men who find me superfluous and my services are not needed, inasmuch as they reduce me to inaction.

"I have always loved my poor country and I am sure that I shall love her until my last moment, should men prove unjust to me. I shall die happy, satisfied with the thought that all I have suffered, my past, my present, and my future, my loves, my joys, everything, I have sacrificed for love of her. Whatever my fate may be, I shall die blessing her and wishing her the dawn of her redemption."

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Caught in 'events'. . .

CALL me lucky, unlucky, psychic, "*may balat*" or just plain "*malas*," but I've had the fortune (or misfortune) of being "where the action was," at some events that inevitably turned out to be of national and international import.

HIGH BLOOD

Estelita Bautista-David

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

March 17, 1957 was the day the whole nation was jolted by the news our beloved President Ramon Magsaysay and 25 others died in a plane crash on Mt. Manunggal in Cebu. Among the 25 who perished was a young journalist (he was only 27), a Malacañang reporter, also the President's speech writer in Filipino. He accompanied The Guy wherever he went as he wrote a series in Liwayway Magazine, "Si Ramon Magsaysay: Ang idolo ng Bayan." Pablo N. Bautista was an editor of that publication. He was my brother, the oldest of 10 siblings, among whom I was the fourth. Forty-five years past, but the pain of the loss of a dutiful and loving brother still pricks the heart at recollection.

In 1980, a mother seven times, my youngest then only 4, I thought America beckoned and wanted to find out what opportunities awaited there. And so, in June 1980, I went to the States as a tourist.

Cora and Luring had their separate homes in New Jersey, about 35 minutes drive to New York City. Every Friday evening, a cousin, Ditas Nuñez a nurse, who worked at the Lincoln Memorial Hospital New York, would come down to spend the weekend with us. On Sunday nights, we would bring her back to Brooklyn where she lived.

In November of that year, we had barely reached my sister's home in New Jersey when the car radio blurted out a bad news: "John Lennon has just been shot." Memories of the Beatles in Manila some years back came rushing in my mind, and the image of John Lennon with the slinky eyes and pageboy hair stood out. Lennon's death was a "big fuss" in America at that time, although his wife Yoko Ono rarely appeared on TV.

I came home in 1981 and resumed teaching in the public school. In the snap elections of 1986, I served as chair of the board of inspectors as I did several elections before. That election was so different from all others. There was excitement and thrill and suspense every step of the way, but nothing compared to the what happened next: People Power I! My family made a decision: to go to Edsa.

Every afternoon till evening we were at Edsa. On the last Saturday of February 1986, while passing Timog Avenue on our way to Greenhills , lo and behold, an armored personnel carrier was coming right toward us on the way to Edsa! Without thinking twice, we got off our car; so did those people, mostly young men, from other cars, and together we pushed the APC backward as we pleaded with the soldiers on board not to proceed. I had never felt so courageous in my whole life! Amazingly, the soldiers in the APC, looking stunned, speechless and even hungry, just obeyed and we could fee the APC really moving backward. Up to this day, I can swear that one of those young men was Aga Muhlach!

In 1990, I quit teaching, "envisioning" a school of my own where I would be directress, principal, registrar and teacher. My husband supported my dream and did put up this eight-room building, four classrooms, an office, a canteen and two comfort rooms, on a 465 sq m-lot in, of all places, Angeles City! I named it St. Basil School for Boys and Girls.

In June 1991, after four months of construction, I was ready to inaugurate my school. We chose June 15, 1991 for that. When the day came, there was slight rain, a drizzle, in fact, but continuous; and the rainfall was white, like rice wash. Invitations have been sent out and I was really expecting my eight children to come from Marikina and witness their mother's dream-come-true. The weather worsened by the hour. By 4 p.m., my assistants set out the food on the tables, the flowers on their stands, and fixed the altar table and chairs. And then, the earth moved, everything around swayed and rains of sand came crashing down the roofs. A few minutes later it had become pitch dark. Every two minutes, there was lightning, followed by loud roars of thunder! People were scampering here and there with nothing on their backs except their clothes, and their children in tow. That's when I realized Mt. Pinatubo erupted!

We abandoned the school, coming back only after three months. After some repairs, classes resumed in September of that year. I started out with only 14 pupils. The following year, with a slightly increasing pupil attendance, lahar struck! Angeles was not badly affected as Bacolor, which was my husband's hometown. Almost all the barangays of Bacolor were buried in lahar, sparing no house—be it the house of the rich and the famous. Even a heart of stone will melt at the sight of a whole barrio obliterated in one lahar-sweep. After staying in Angeles for four years I went back to Marikina.

On Aug. 22, 2001, my husband, daughter Karen and myself went to America for the wedding—scheduled for Sept. 1 that year—of another daughter, Jessica, a nurse at the UCLA liver transplant division. The trip was like "shooting two birds with one stone," as it was also an opportunity to visit my other daughter Celine, who just had a baby boy. The wedding was to be held at Schaumburg Illinois, where Dave Martin Ventura, my would-be son-in-law was raised and grew up, there in the same church where his own parents were wed.

A day after the wedding we went to Chicago, Illinois. The sight of the Sears Tower brought me thoughts of the World Trade Center. Sept. 3 was my birthday, also Labor Day in America and thus, a holiday.

On Sept. 6, we decided to go "home" to California. Daughter Karen flew to New York, expecting to join us in California on Sept. 11. At 11 a.m. of that day, she was to meet a classmate, Karen Baula, a stewardess of Saudia, at the World Trade Center. As my newly married daughter Jessica and her husband Dave flew to the Tahiti Islands for a two-week honeymoon, my husband Joe and I were left alone in their home at Torrance, California.

In the early morning of Sept. 11, we were awakened by a call from Manila. It was daughter Bernadette on the line. Her first question was: "Where's Karen?" I replied, "In New York." She asked again, "When do you expect her?" I told her that very same day after she will have met with a classmate at the World Trade Center. Then with a voice that sounded more like a scream, she directed us, "Open your TV!" Only then and that's when I saw the most horrific, terrible scene I ever did in my whole life. The World Trade Center seemed so close and deafening as whole tragedy began to sink in—the thought of my Karen who, that morning, was supposed to have a "date" with a classmate at the World Trade Center.

Even before I could gather my thoughts, a second plane cut across the second tower, making a huge cloud of smoke and flames. Suddenly, panic seized me. If Karen was there, what shall we bring home? Questions in an endless string of questions keep crossing my mind. The situation got worse when we could not get in touch with anybody (my relatives) in New York when the telephone lines were temporarily cut off.

I saw my daughter, Karen on Sept. 18. I couldn't help but cry. When I asked her why she and her friend didn't go to the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, she said, "Both of us were late." Thank God the Pinoys in us paid off!

Estelita Bautista-David, 65, is a retired public school teacher.

Dialogue as a way to peace

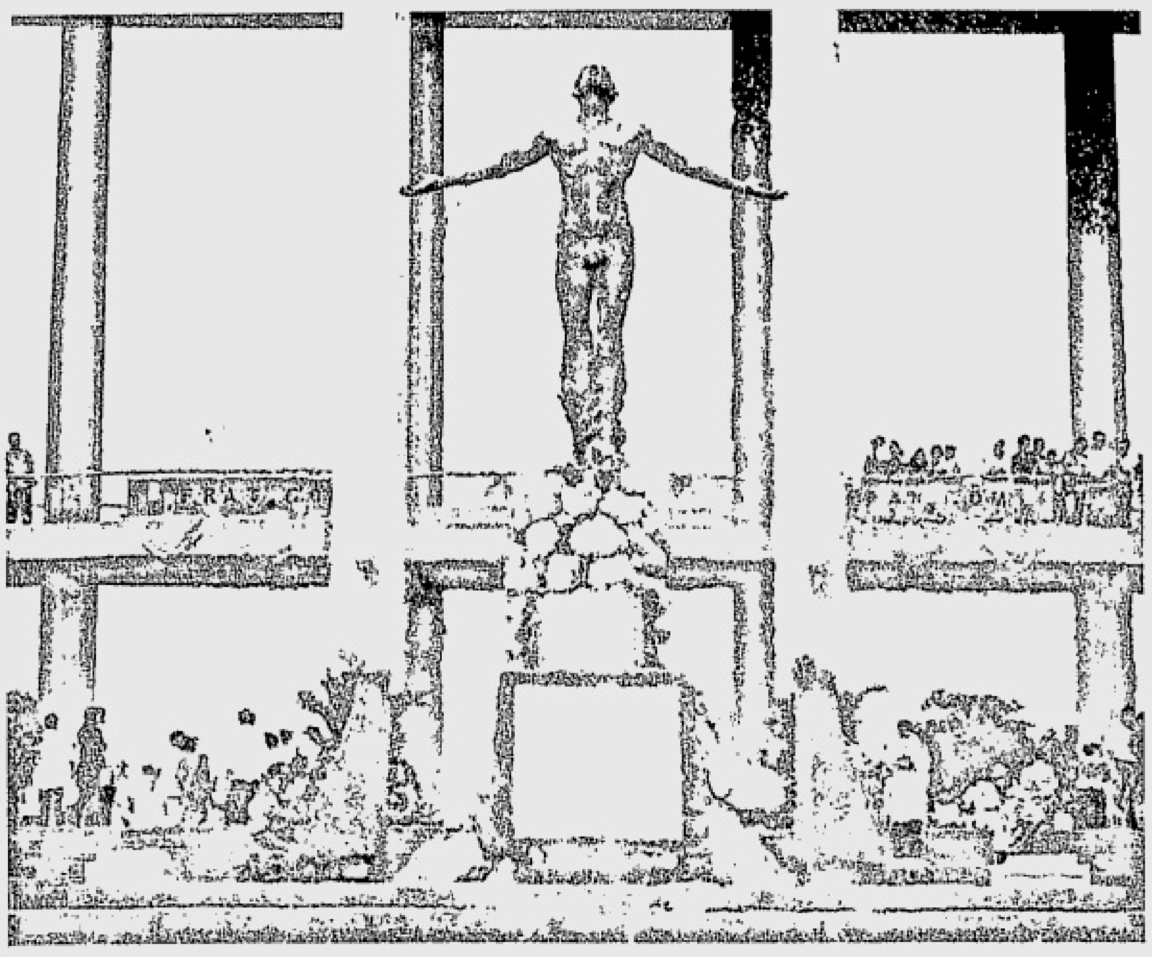
WE are the staff of the Silsilah Dialogue Movement of Zamboanga City. There are 22 of us, Muslims and Christians, who met last Aug. 2, 2003 to prayerfully reflect on the political event in Makati last July 27. We would like to share the fruits of this reflection:

1. As peace advocates, through our commitment and witnessing to a Life-in-Dialogue, we condemn the use of violence and force, especially by the military sector who has been tasked to uphold the supremacy of civilian authority.

2. We affirm and support the legitimate issues raised by the junior officers and we strongly urge the present administration and members of Congress to seriously look into all of these issues through an independent and credible fact-finding committee.

3. We are hopeful and jubilant that the whole-day debacle was resolved peacefully through dialogue and we give credit to the parties concerned for having chosen the longer but more effective path to peace through dialogue.

—AMINDA SAÑO,
executive director,
SEBASTIANO D'AMBRA, president
and 22 OTHER SIGNATORIES,
Silsilah Dialogue Movement,
silsilah@mozcom.com



A bill to slay UP

THIS is a response to "A bill to save University of the Philippines" by Rina Jimenez-David (PDI, 8/9/03) where she expressed support for Sen. Francisco Pangilinan's Senate Bill 2587 which seeks to change the 1908 UP Charter. We share her mourning over the slow pace of UP's development and her desire to change this. We agree that the 1908 UP Charter must be changed. Contrary to UP president Francisco Nemenzo's claims, however, SB 2587 will only worsen UP's problems.

In the bill, the government recognizes UP as a "national university" but not its responsibility of funding UP. The bill merely accepts and adjusts to meager state subsidy. It legalizes state abandonment of UP.

This jibes with the government policy that would decrease state subsidy and encourage self-generation of income for tertiary education. UP will be compelled to increase student fees and prostitute its assets to corporations.

SB 2587 allows the UP administration to "fix" student fees without consultation. With lower subsidy, student fees will be increased. This will commercialize UP education and limit its accessibility to a privileged few, an attack to our right to education.

This bill allows UP to enter into different forms of tie-ups with corporations. In the face of state abandonment, corporate control of UP will increase, along with UP's dependence on corporations.

This bill even allows UP to enter into "securitization," or the creation of stocks and sale of these corporations. As stockholders, corporations will be able to control student fees, academic programs and UP as a whole.

In the context of state abandonment, withdrawing from the Salary Standardization Law will mean higher fees for students. This may increase the salary of regular faculty and employees, but will mean heightened contractualization of new ones.

In sum, SB 2587 will mean less state subsidy for UP, higher fees for students and greater corporate control on UP. This is not our vision for UP. SB 2587 is not the product of consultations with the UP community. It is an imposition.

We ask David and others, who want UP to develop and regain its prestige, to unite with us in calling on the Senate to junk SB 2587 as soon as possible. This bill will kill, not save, UP.

—GLORIA THERESA CUTAB,
Student Regent, UP System;
JPAUL MANZANILLA,
University Student Council,
University of the Philippines,
Diliman, Quezon City

How about a pet obituary?

WE currently have three Dalmatians and three Chihuahuas and have strong feelings toward them as all dog lovers do.

Having said that, I think it is rather improper to have a pet obituary printed among humans. Perhaps it would be best to set aside a discreet special section specially suited for those who want to publish obituaries for their loving pets. It would be a novel idea and might even start a trend.

—S. LACSON,
Parañaque City

Away with janitors

THIS refers to the janitor fish invasion (PDI, 8/8/03) of Marikina River and Laguna Lake. It is turning out to be a classic example of the introduction of exotic species and their awful effects on local habitats.

The janitor fish competes for food with the local freshwater fish such as carp, mudfish and tilapia and, apparently, it is a more voracious eater of algae and small crustaceans. It has a habit of going upstream. The janitor fish could move to a river's tributaries. If the spread of this alien fish is not checked, it could destroy not only the native, edible species but also the livelihood of subsistence fishers in these waters.

The invasion of the janitor fish is also disrupting the network of relationships among the original species in the local habitats, and it is too early yet to know its full consequences. It may be too simplistic to attribute its rapid multiplication to "filthy" water. The presence of algae in riverbeds is a normal thing. These are the natural food of native species.

It is most likely that the janitor fish was introduced into the local waters by accidental release or irresponsible dumping. But introduction of exotic wildlife by any means is illegal under the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001 (also known as Republic Act 9147). This law also requires the Department of Agriculture (DA) to enforce the registration of all exotic species imported before the effectivity of the act and to require permits or clearances for such importations to be made thereafter. Did this law come too late to prevent the introduction of the janitor fish, or is laxity in enforcement a factor here?

Certainly it will help if the DA and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) can explain the progress of its implementation of RA 9147.

We also hope that trade liberalization will not result in more relaxed safeguards against the entry of harmful exotic species. It should be noted that BFAR importation permits for bangus fry are already being used by unscrupulous traders as a cover for the illegal entry of an exotic species of shrimp (*litopenaeus vannamei*) that could threaten the local shrimp species.

What should be done to contain the spread of the janitor fish? I suggest that the BFAR conduct a rapid study of how this species is able to adapt to local habitats. Knowing how it eats, breeds and interacts with other species in the Marikina River will yield insights on how to combat it.

—JAIME ESCOBAR JR.,
Block 16, Lot 49
Sugartown Subd.,
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

GSIS not in good hands, after all?

THE GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System, in a full page ad published in the INQUIRER, states the "truth about temporary delay of processing and disbursement" in its operation. Stripped of copywriter niceties, the ad says, the GSIS has no money problem, only computerization problems.

The GSIS indeed points to computer system conversion or "enhancement process" as the real reason for the delay. Whatever the GSIS calls it, the GSIS hardware upgrade, systems and procedure overhaul, data reconciliation and file update comprise an apparent monumental failure in IT project management. The fundamental reason—in IT, you plan and manage so that you never stop or delay operations while converting a system or installing a new one.

There are two types of system conversion: parallel operation and immediate replacement. In parallel operation, you don't throw out the old system without an adequate period of dual operation. The old system is available and in use while the new system is being run. This way, it is "business as usual" and transaction processing suffers neither major delays nor stoppage. Meanwhile, bugs or kinks in the new system are identified and removed.

In case of immediate replacement, the old system is shut down at cutoff time and the new system is installed and used. The GSIS has apparently shut down its old system although the new one is still in its second and final phase of "enhancement." This is unheard of as far as computer conversion is concerned. It is a failure if system enhancement disrupts company operations or builds a big processing backlog.

Truth is, members' complaints have mounted. The GSIS has to spend at least a million of members' money on TV and newspaper ads to dispel their doubts. These members, mind you, are easily 80 percent of all government employees, including soldiers in the armed forces, and retirees relying on their pension.

Truth is, as computer development (upgrade or conversion, or new system installation) is going on, the GSIS need not delay (or worse, stop) claims and loans processing and disbursement, and the payment of pensions. This holds whether systems development is delayed or on time, failing or successful.

Is the real reason "computer development" or is it financial inadequacy? Whichever it is, the GSIS ad admits—even proclaims—the GSIS management's incompetence in handling resources. This, as well as the reported GSIS art purchase of the century, shows that the GSIS management may not be in good hands after all.

—WILLIE SOBRITCHEA,
wsobrit@attglobal.net

Idealism in soldiery

I AM a retired enlisted person from an elite unit of the Armed Forces of the Philippines which I served for 21 years till my retirement. May I refer the word "soldier" to both the officers and enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Every soldier's ideals vary. There are some whose idealism is skin deep, some a bit deeper and yet others still grander. My idealism as a soldier was skin deep. I just wanted to see myself in uniform; spick and span. It was my desire to experience the feeling of soldiers in the battlefield; fight the enemies, jumping from an aircraft, sleeping on the ground, etc. I was luckier than those who applied but failed to make it to the AFP. I am thankful I was given the rare privilege to serve as a soldier.

I was very happy when I took my oath as a private. The pay, the recruiting sergeant told us was P130 monthly and P1 daily subsistence allowance. I did not contest that. In short, I realized my dream. I jumped from airplanes, I fought against the enemy, I slept on the ground. I was happy.

I am now gainfully employed outside of the service and I thank the AFP for the experience. I have no regrets.

But I am saddened by soldiers' attempt at power grabs and coups. These were not the ideals soldiers are trained for. I think people like them starting in 1986 up to the recent mutiny, should ponder this:

The Profession Of Arms

Men who adopt the profession of arms submit of their own free will to a law of perpetual constraint of their own accord.

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From the moment they became soldiers, it needs but an order to settle them in this place, to move them, to separate them from their families, and to dislocate them from their normal lives.

In a word of command, they must rise, march, run, endure bad weather, go without sleep and food, be isolated in far distant posts, and work until they drop.

They have ceased to be masters of their own fates; if their ashes are scattered to the four winds, it's all part and parcel of their works.

—De Gaulle

So, whether your grievances are legitimate or not, you don't say what you think. Wait for your turn, then institute the reforms you want. Or, is it that those who wanted reforms then had been gobbled up by the corrupt system and now that their turn has come, they are the ones who need to be reformed?

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Where is that income coming from?

THIS is a rejoinder to your editorial last Aug. 13—"Poor defense"—focusing on Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes' mansion which is currently under construction. You rightly pointed out that with a monthly gross income of only P50,000, how could Reyes repay the P10-million loan he obtained for the acquisition of the adjacent lots and the construction of his mansion, notwithstanding the inclusion of the income of his wife and sons being co-makers of the said loan?

At the conservative assumption of 12 percent, for the P6.7 million he has obtained so far out of his P10-million loan, the monthly amortization of P111,755 would require a gross monthly income of P372,516.68, taking into account the fact that the Philippine Savings Bank and other banks consider 30 percent of the gross income of the borrower as the amount one could adequately amortize. But if his loan carries an interest of 16 percent per annum—which is most likely, as this is the prevailing interest rates of banks—his total monthly amortization would be P126,858.02. That would require a gross monthly income of P422,860.06.

If Reyes would avail himself of the balance of his loan amounting to P3.3 million in order to complete the construction of his mansion, this will further increase his amortization to P167,535.10 which would require a gross monthly income of P558,450.35 at an interest rate of 12 percent; or a gross monthly income of P633,464.59 to pay a monthly amortization of P190,039.38 on an interest rate of 16 percent per annum.

Since the PSB has already approved the P10-million loan of Reyes, it is unavoidable to conclude that the gross income that he declared, including those of his wife and sons, must be anywhere between P558,450.35 and P633,464.59. Perhaps, for Reyes to clear doubts of his capability to amortize his loan, he should show details of the sources of his income, together with those of his co-makers.

—PALERMO L. SORIANO,
441 Batangas South,
Ayala Alabang Village,
Muntinlupa City

Holes in the head

WITH ITS penchant for investigation "in aid of legislation," our Congress has started to probe the causes of the so-called Oakwood mutiny. Yet, one does not have to look far to know the problems and the solutions because the facts are known, even to the public. As to the rebel soldiers' grievances, which are essentially against low pay, lack of housing and corruption in the military, let the executive branch of the government address these issues. Let us not waste our time and resources on another congressional investigation. These issues are a mere rehash of those investigated following the 1987 and 1989 coups by the Davide Commission, whose recommendations, incidentally, were not implemented.

The crisis brought about by the recurring military coups has one simple solution: Ban the formation of any fraternity within the military and police organizations and outlaw the existing ones, such as RAM, Guardians Brotherhood Inc. and what have you. Cliques within the military or police forces are like holes in the head not only to their mother organizations but also to the civilian government.

—DIOSDADO V. CALONGE,
Office of the Special Prosecutor,
Office of the Ombudsman,
5/F Sandiganbayan,
Quezon City

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Would-be robbers of our freedoms

IT'S disappointing and disheartening how some sectors of society have glamorized and lionized the rebel soldiers who attempted to abolish our democratic institutions, and install instead a 15-man ruling junta.

These supposed idealists are nothing more than a bunch of criminals who happen to have been armed by the most sophisticated weaponry the Armed Forces of the Philippines has in its arsenal. To make matters worse, these hoodlums in uniforms were educated, fed and cared for by taxpayer money, only to turn all that was given them against the very Filipino people who supported them.

I still remember one coup attempt led by Gringo Honasan, where the rebels mowed down with machine guns unarmed civilians, whose only mistake was to "boo" the rebel soldiers attempting to grab power. These murderers were never punished, that's why history keeps repeating itself.

People who attempt to rule our country through the barrel of a gun have no place in civilized society.

If criminals who steal cell phones, wallets and other personal properties go to jail, criminals who try to steal our democratic way of life and basic freedoms should certainly spend the rest of their lives locked-up, away from the freedom-loving people of our country.

—ANTONIO C. PASTELERO,
3/F Bellarmine Hall,
Ateneo de Manila University,
Loyola Heights, Quezon City

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Liberia's factions sign deal to end war

ACCRA—Liberia's interim government and two rebel groups Monday signed a sweeping peace pact to end a four-year civil war, exactly a week after the forced resignation and exit of warlord-turned-president Charles Taylor.

The agreement, signed in the Ghanaian capital Accra, declared an immediate end to a brutal four-year war and spelt out the parameters of a new caretaker government which is due to take power in October and continue in office until January 2006.

Sekou Damate Conneh, the leader of the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) main rebel group; Thomas Nimely, chair of the smaller Movement for Democracy in Liberia (Model) and Liberian Foreign Minister Lewis Brown signed the document.

Kabineh Ja'neh, who led the LURD at the tortuous peace talks, was overjoyed after the ceremony.

"We are very happy that the war has ended," he said. "We look forward to a great future for our beloved country and our long-suffering people can now look forward to living in prosperity and peace.

"We will now go back to reconstruct and rebuild our country." The signing of the pact was witnessed by top leaders of the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas) regional bloc which has been brokering the deal, including its executive secretary Mohamed ibn Chambas.

Also present at the ceremony were former Nigerian President General Abdulsalami Abubakar, the chief mediator at the talks and Ghana's President John Kufuor, whose country holds the rotating presidency of Ecowas.

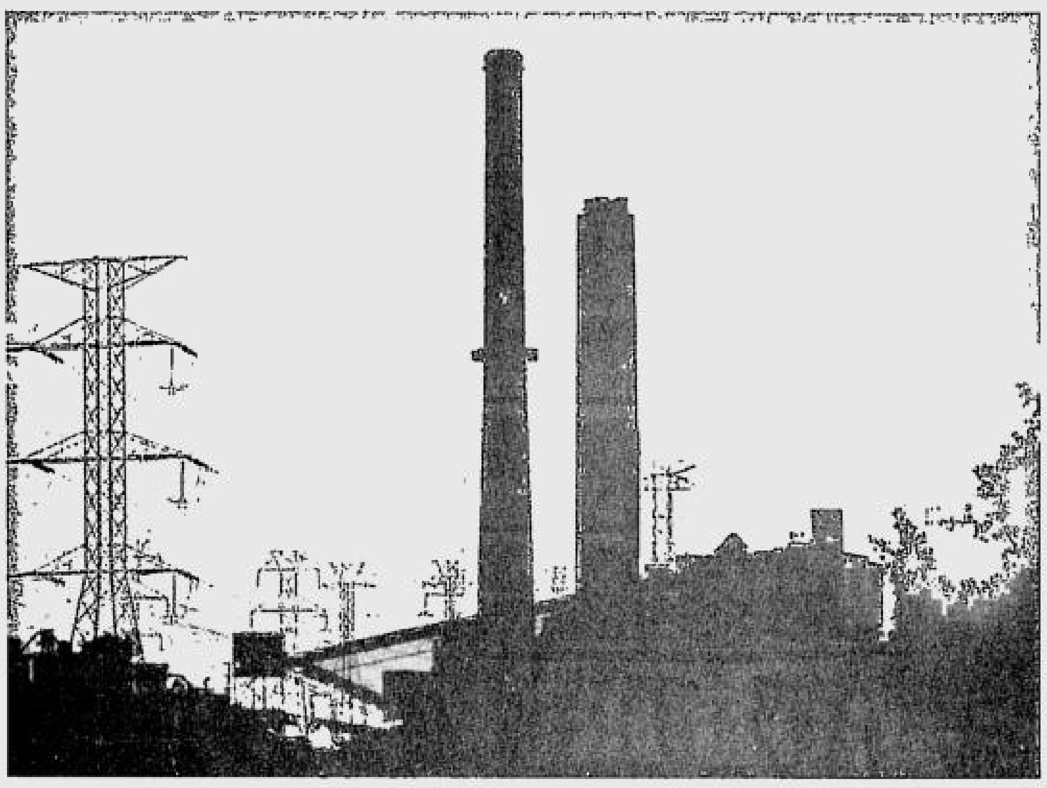
Abubakar said he hoped this peace "will be the very last of such agreements and then Liberia will never again be plunged into a spiral of violence"—a reference to almost 14 years of non-stop war in which Charles Taylor was a key player.

Ecowas executive secretary Ibn Chambas said: "I believe this definitely buries the war. Charles Taylor has departed: the major reason why these groups have been fighting has been removed." The agreement "will bring lasting peace as (it) addresses major issues. It works to improve human rights, improve the rights of citizens and contains important reforms in security and electoral reforms," he said.

The pact calls on the United Nations to deploy a stabilization force in conjunction with Ecowas and the African Union under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, which allows use of force, to back the proposed transitional government.

Ghana's Kufuor asked the belligerents "not to engage in activities that will derail the tenets of the comprehensive peace agreement that has just been signed."

Liberian Information Minister Reginald Goodridge said in Monrovia that while his government welcomed "the development, it is unfortunate that it could not have been signed earlier. *AFP*



THE SUN begins to set behind FirstEnergy Corp. power plant in Eastlake, Ohio, Aug. 18. The coal-fired power plant shut down about 2 p.m. Thursday, the first of several sites where transmission failures occurred in the Cleveland area before the blackout. Ohio remained the focus of investigations trying to determine the cause of the largest-ever blackout in the United States. AP

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New York back in business, but blackout cause still eludes probers

NEW YORK—New York was back in business on Monday without a hitch in the first big test of the power supply since last Thursday's historic outage, but energy regulators were still in the dark about the cause.

Pat Wood, the head of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, said it was too early to tell what caused North America's worst-ever power blackout but that a US-Canadian government task force will likely take weeks, not months, to find the answer.

Electricity providers urged customers to conserve energy because supplies in New York, the Midwest and the Canadian province of Ontario were still tight as plants downed in the outage slowly restored service.

In New York, it seemed like business as usual.

"Subways are working, buses are working, traffic is light, it's a Monday in August, just what you would expect," New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg said on NY1 News TV.

Bloomberg won praise for staying cool while the heat was on during the 29-hour Big Apple blackout on Thursday and Friday, and he applauded New Yorkers for their calm and orderliness.

In Ottawa, most of the city's 55,000 federal civil servants were told to stay home on Monday. Only essential staff in the provincial government in Ottawa and Toronto were working.

Officials said the threat of rolling blackouts was not yet over and conservation was key to maintaining a safe balance between supply and demand.

"If people continue their conservation efforts and really work hard to curtail power use, we should be able to meet demand without requiring rotating power outages," said a spokesperson for the Independent Electricity Market Operator.

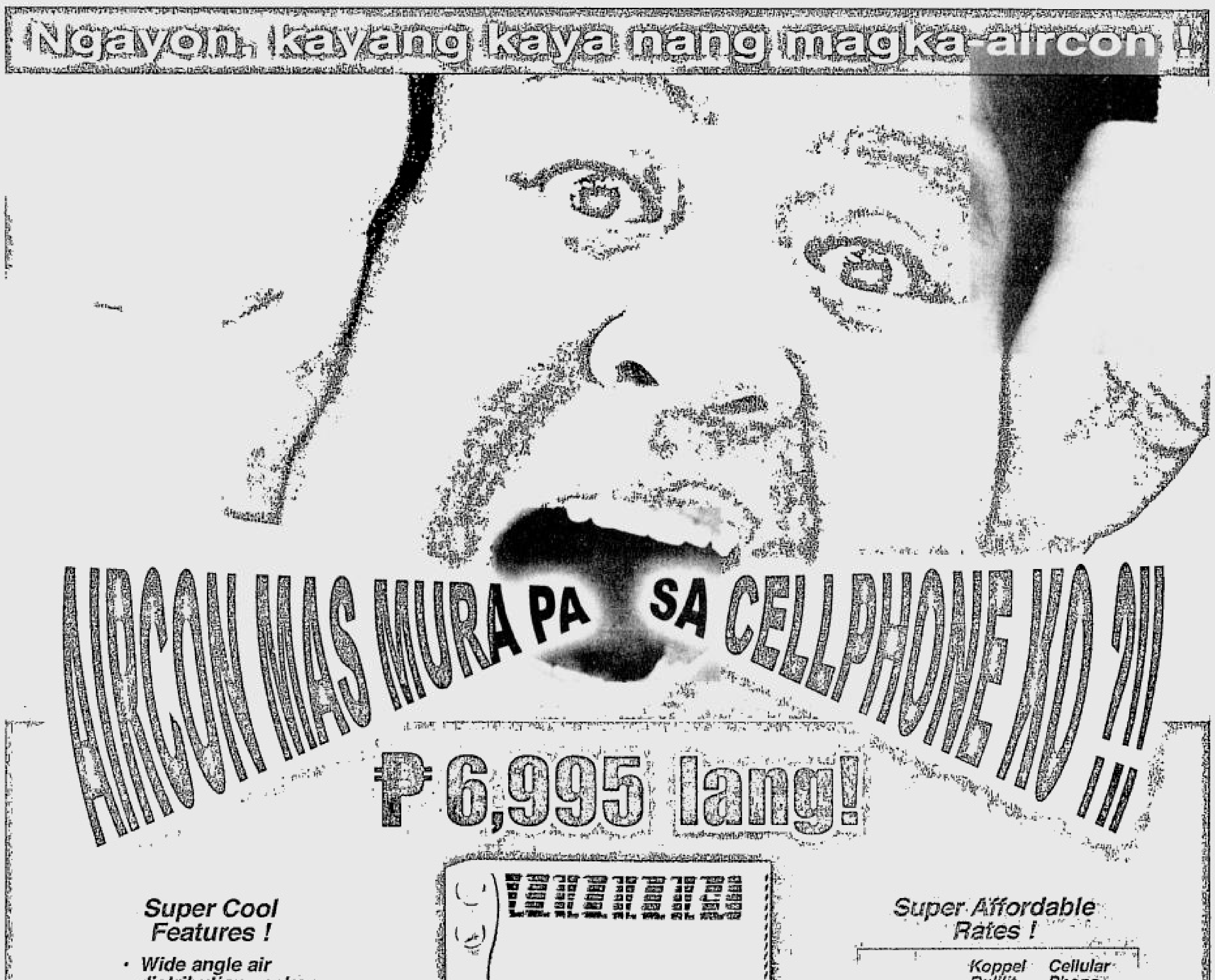
New York, the most populous city in the United States with 8 million people, lost power shortly after 4 p.m. on Thursday in cascading outages that left up to 50 million in Ontario and eight US states in the dark.

The big three Detroit automakers resumed production at most North American plants hit by last week's outage.

Health authorities, who had been concerned that the power outage had led to contamination of Detroit's water supply, pronounced the city's water safe and told millions of consumers they no longer needed to boil it before use.

Wall Street had a normal day on Monday after many firms ran trading systems on emergency power systems on Friday. US stocks extended gains in light trading, fed partly by relief that the blackout did not cause lasting economic damage.

The Wall Street Journal reported that business leaders and economists estimated the cost of the blackout for the region could total $6 billion, with retailers and airlines hit hard. *Reuters*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UK asks UN to end Libya sanctions; France balks

UNITED NATIONS—Britain asked the Security Council on Monday to quickly end UN sanctions on Libya, but France said the North African state could not turn the page on the 1988 Lockerbie bombing until it offered more money for victims of a 1989 attack on a French airliner.

British Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry introduced a draft resolution to lift the sanctions imposed on Libya after the midair bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Scotland, and the council agreed to begin debate on Wednesday.

"Our wish is to see an early vote. This has been a long, painful, protracted negotiation, and especially for the families," Jones Parry told reporters.

But France, which has veto power in the 15-nation Security Council, said the sanctions could not be lifted until its own demands on the Tripoli government were resolved.

French Deputy UN Ambassador Michel Duclos told a closed-door council meeting Paris was "not prepared to compromise," diplomats said.

In a deal painstakingly negotiated with Britain and the United States, Libya on Friday accepted responsibility for the Pan Am bombing and agreed to pay an expected $2.7 billion in compensation—enough to provide up to $10 million to the families of each of the 270 people killed in the attack.

That prompted a last-minute drive by Paris to pressure Libya for more money for the 170 victims of the September 1989 downing of a jet from the now-defunct UTA French airline over the West African state of Niger.

A Paris court found six Libyans guilty in absentia for the UTA bombing. Libya never officially accepted blame but turned over roughly 30.5 million euros ($34.3 million) in compensation, leading to payouts of at most $33,780 per victim, according to a group representing the victims' families.

Council diplomats said a vote on the British text could not be scheduled in any case until Libya put the Lockerbie money into a special escrow account, a step that could come as early as Tuesday.

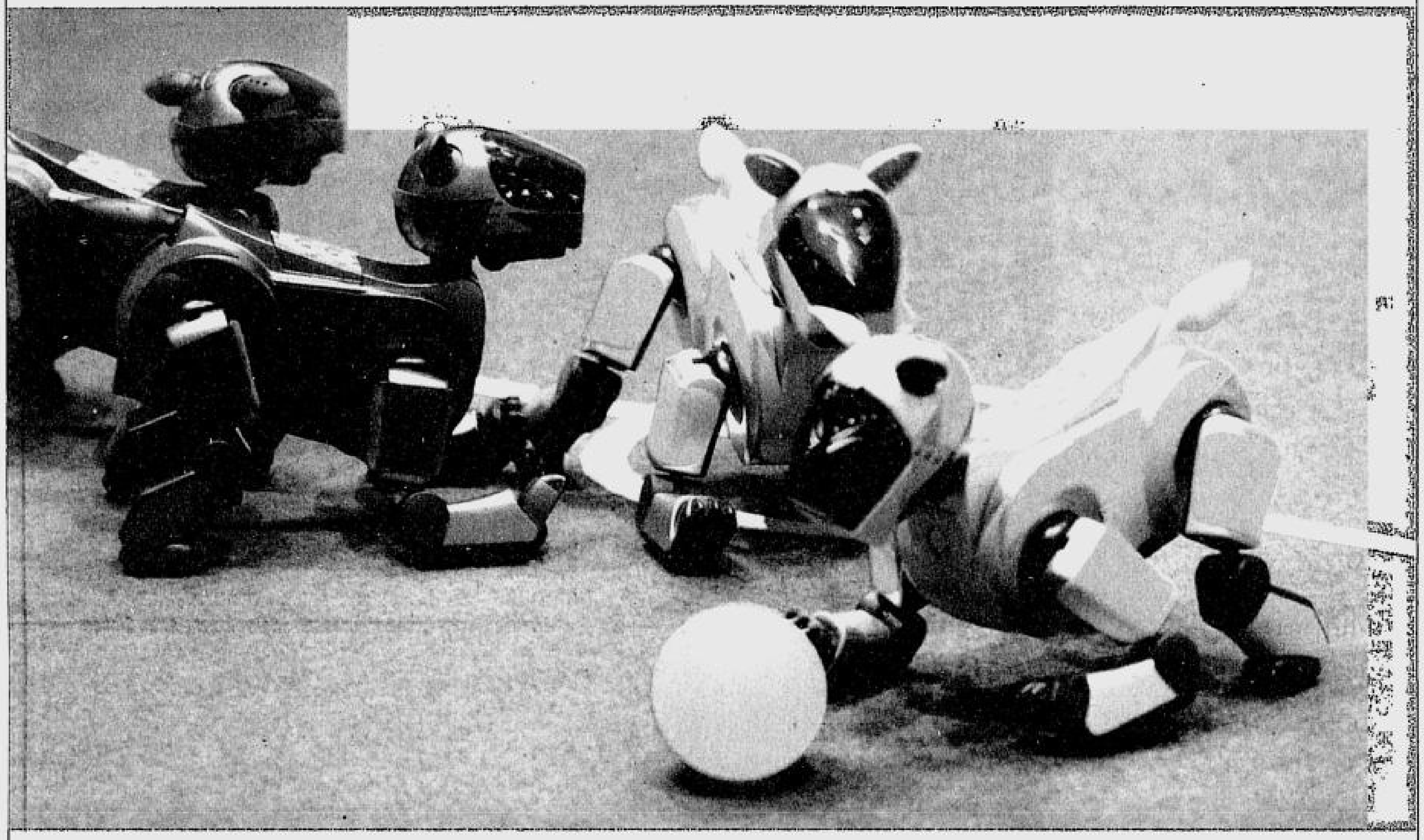
France's foreign ministry said it was making "important progress" in talks with Libya on the UTA victims, 65 of whom were French. But it would not say if it would use its veto. *Reuters*

NORTHERN LIGHTS

A disply of the northern lights in Erikslund, Medelpad in Sweden, Aug. 19. The northern lights occur in a circular band around the geomagnetic north pole, otherwise known as the northern lights oval.

AFP

"Carnegie Mellon University wins first place in the first American Open Robot Soccer Competition."



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Blair's office rewrote dossier on Iraq, UK probe told

LONDON—British Prime Minister Tony Blair's office authorized a "substantial rewrite" of a controversial government dossier on Iraq, an inquiry into the apparent suicide of weapons expert David Kelly heard Monday.

Kelly's death is the subject of a parliamentary inquiry, amid allegations—reportedly based on the weapons scientist's evidence—that the Blair administration beefed up intelligence data to bolster the case for war on Iraq.

An email from Blair's director of communications Alastair Campbell to chief-of-staff Jonathan Powell, dated Sept. 5, disclosed that the dossier was being substantially rewritten ahead of its publication on Sept. 24.

Campbell, 46, is the man accused by BBC journalist Andrew Gilligan of personally embelleshing Downing Street's controversial dossier on Iraq, aimed at justifying the case for military action ahead of the March war.

Gilligan alleged in a British newspaper article on June 1 that Campbell, who is set to testify before the probe Tuesday, was responsible for inserting a sensational claim into the dossier, a week before its publication, that stated Iraq could deploy chemical or biological weapons in just 45 minutes.

Documents released to the inquiry Monday showed that the dossier should be altered "as per TB's discussion"—an apparent reference to Tony Blair.

It said: "Re dossier, substantial rewrite with JS and Julian M in charge, which JS will take to US next Friday, and be in shape Monday thereafter.

"Structure as per TB's discussion. Agreement that there has to be real intelligence material in their presentation."

JS apparently referred to John Scarlett, the chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee, while Julian Miller was the the Cabinet Office's chief-of-the-assessment-staff. The US stood for the United States.

Meanwhile a separate email from Powell, also presented to the inquiry Monday, outlined his misgivings over the dossier on the potential threat of Iraqi weapons.

The government row with the BBC over whether or not the government "sexed up" the dossier and Kelly's subsequent and mysterious death have left Blair, who is dwindling badly in opinion polls, facing his gravest crisis since coming to power in 1997. *AFP*

Anti-Castro activist a Cuban spy, book says

HAVANA—Veteran anti-Castro activist Elizardo Sanchez, known around the world for his defense of human rights in Cuba, is a government spy code-named Juana, according to a book published by the government on Monday.

The book by journalists employed in President Fidel Castro's communist government said Sanchez has been a secret service agent since 1997 and has informed on the activities of Castro's opponents and foreign journalists.

But Sanchez, president of the Cuban Human Rights Commission, vehemently denied the allegations as an effort to discredit his opposition to Castro.

"It's a colossal lie," the 59-year-old activist told reporters at his home.

"It is part of a campaign, like those in the former Soviet Union, to disqualify and silence dissidents," he said.

The book has sown further disarray and suspicion among Cuba's small dissident movement already shaken by mass arrests in March and the surfacing of a dozen infiltrators as witnesses during the trials of 75 members. The dissidents were sentenced to prison terms of up to 28 years.

Sanchez, who spent 8 1/2 years in jail in the 1980s, said the book titled "El Camajan" (The Rogue), was a montage of true and fabricated events. *Reuters*

Herbs and Proper Blood Circulation... the Doctor's Point of View

By Jan Denton A. Chua, M.D.

Many of Today's Most Common Diseases are Associated with Poor Blood Circulation

While such disorders are generally treated with the usual therapeutic drugs, evidence-based research on several health cases shows that such problems may also be handled with the use of herbal remedies. The top four herbs, *Crataegus (Hawthorn)*, *Melissa (Lemon Balm)*, *Gingko Biloba* and *Garlic Oil*, naturally designed to improve blood circulation, have been the subject of intense observation in the fight against today's most common health problems.

An elite group of doctors, the experts in their own medical fields, have come forward to shed light on the benefits of herbs and proper blood circulation.

Against Diabetes

Most of the complications caused by diabetes are due to poor blood circulation. **Dr. Miguel Ramos**, a gerontologist, explains that "while the control of Diabetes Mellitus requires the proper balance of insulin and glucose levels in a patient, herbal supplements which contain *Garlic* and *Gingko Biloba* aid in improving impaired blood flow in diabetic patients, thereby decreasing the risk of complications due to poor micro-circulation."

"*Garlic*," he adds, "has also shown positive effects on lowering and maintaining blood glucose levels together with modern medicine aside from its positive cardiovascular actions as found in evidence-based studies."

Against Disease Conditions Among the Aged

The world of herbal medicine offers a wide range of applications and treatments on several different levels, ranging from everyday over-the-counter remedies for more symptomatic relief for minor ailments, to individualized prescriptions prepared specifically for patients—the aged, for example—suffering from more serious conditions.

"Clinical trials were conducted on *Crataegus, Melissa, Gingko Biloba* and *Garlic*" says **Dr. Miguel Ramos**. Such herbs, according to him, were found to be effective and safe for many disease conditions found among the geriatric population. Systemic diseases associated with multi-organ involvement such as diabetes, hypertension, etc, were also found to benefit most from the above-mentioned supplements.

The improved hemodynamics offered by *Crataegus* and *Gingko* has been shown by studies to successfully improve renal homeostasis and renal function. **Dr. Benjamin Balmores**, a nephrologist, said that "clinical trials have demonstrated improved renal function tests with *Crataegus* and *Gingko*. Combined use with conventional medicine would especially benefit patients who are at greater risk from impaired renal function such as diabetic and hypertensive patients."

In the field of rheumatology, *Melissa Officinalis* was proven to be an effective uricosuric agent. **Dr. Charito Bermudes**, a rheumatologist, mentioned that "clinical trials have demonstrated significant reduction of serum uric acid levels in patients given *Melissa Officionalis.* Additional analgesic properties of this herbal combination make it useful in a number of rheumatologic conditions."

Against Heart Diseases

In the field of Cardiology, where conventional medical therapy has had astounding advances in treatment, **Dr. William Chua** has this to say: "Studies have demonstrated the benefit of the anti-platelet and anti-thrombotic properties of *Crataegus (Hawthorn)* and *Gingko Biloba* in subjects with ischemic heart disease. A significant decrease in the frequency of angina and increase in exercise tolerance occurred in the group that received the two supplements."

He also adds that "cardiomyopathic patients of varied etiologies with mild to moderate heart failure (NYHA Class II-III) were shown to have further improved from the symptoms with the addition of *Hawthorn* to the standard anti-CHF regimen.

"By adding *Hawthorn/Garlic* to the standard anti-hypertensive regimen, the maintenance of optimal blood pressure throughout the day was more constant."

Against Strokes

Even neurological cases have had widespread news about herbal supplementation in managing conditions ranging from Alzheimer's to the effects of strokes. According to a neurologist, **Dr. Abdias Aquino**, "*Gingko Biloba* has been shown by evidence-based research to improve memory and aid in concentration. As a matter of fact, *Gingko* has been given—on top of regular medications—to Alzheimer's patients with good results. Extracts from this herb, along with *Garlic*, can also be used as a supplement to modern medicine to aid in the prevention of strokes or to improve the symptoms caused by them."

Against Pulmonary Problems

Among the many studies of herbal supplements, properties of *Gingko Biloba* have shown positive effects such as reduced airway resistance and inflammation. **Dr. Lyndon Samson**, a pulmonologist, explains that "resultant bronchodilation reduces dyspneic symptoms of various ailments ranging from asthma to chronic obstructive lung disease, and thus has opened exciting possibilities in exploring new ways of managing pulmonary problems."

Advt.

Against Gastro-intestinal Disorders

The use of herbal supplements has also shown a wide range of possibilities for gastro-intestinal conditions. According to **Dr. Joseph Bocobo**, a gastroenterologist, "clinical trials have shown that the anti-spasmodic effect of the *Melissa Extract* relieves intestinal colic and symptoms of irritable colon in addition to its anxiolytic and calming effect. With modern medicine, *Melissa* can be used as well to minimize various ailments and improve the quality of life in many patients suffering from gastro-intestinal problems."

Holistic Approach

In all cases, it will be noted that there is not one regimen replacing the other, but instead, there is a combination of two branches of medicine which almost all physicians will certainly agree with. While modern medicine essentially corrects the pathologic processes, herbal medicine improves the patient's medical condition. When practiced together, a more holistic approach in treatment and health management is achieved.

Proper understanding of the use of herbs might be the key in finding the proper place for herbal medicine in the everyday practice of physicians. Let us address, instead of debating as to which is more effective, the need to find a way in using both pharmaceutically endorsed products and alternative herbs in tandem. Who knows? Such move may prove to be more beneficial for many patients.

For inquiries call: **421-7828**

Understanding Herbs in an Era of Modern Medicine

The use of herbal products in the Western spectrum of medicine has always been a matter of great debate. In spite of herbal medicine's vast popularity, many physicians still find security in the therapeutic techniques they have comfortably lived with in their practice. Although its existence cannot be denied, the everyday patient-doctor setting still revolves around modern-day conventional medicine, leaving herbal medications as the last resort in either *a case of financial constraint or per patient request.*

Outside the hospital setting, however, herbal medicines thrive and are making more headlines than they used to in the past through the constant display of new advertisements, some claiming miraculous promises. The information highway is so wide nowadays that even with just one click of the mouse, patients can access the information they need, learn about new potentials on their own, while getting more and more excited about herbal products.

What needs to be addressed in this time and age then, is the proper understanding of the use of herbal products, and not casually choosing between conventional and herbal medicine as if it had to be one or the other.

Combining the two forms of therapeutics isn't as easy since one will always seemingly try to outweigh the other. The great challenge, therefore, lies in both spectra of medicine learning to accept each other's possibilities. Modern-day medicine should start to accept and be more aware of how herbal medicines are becoming more reliable with "evidence-based research and randomized clinical trials." Local and international journals have been giving due attention to the emergence of herbal products and studies have been promising, and at some point, even definitive. Herbal products, on the other hand, should do away with the usual false promises and hard-sell techniques to promote them as miracle products which can replace doctor-prescribed medications. There should be a tandem between using such products, and combining these two. Doctors' viewpoints could shed some light into how such a tandem can actually exist.

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Paris top health official resigns amid heat deaths

PARIS—France's surgeon-general resigned Monday amid a deepening scandal over the government's handling of a record-breaking heat wave that the health minister admitted could have caused the death of up to 5,000 people.

Lucien Abenhaim, the general director for health, told Health Minister Jean-Francois Mattei in a letter that he was tendering his resignation "given the present controversies surrounding the handling of the epidemic (of deaths) linked to the heat wave." Mattei said it was possible the number of deaths from the two weeks of record-breaking temperatures, which ended late last week, had topped the government's previous estimate of 3,000.

"The figure of 5,000 was mentioned yesterday. It's one hypothesis. It's plausible but it's just a hypothesis," he told RTL radio, adding that precise figures would not be known for several weeks.

In his interview, Mattei also acknowledged criticism from doctors and the political opposition that the health crisis had not been adequately handled.

"We didn't have the information and the warning signals that we should have had," he said.

As temperatures soared to around 40 degrees Celsius (104 degree Farenheit) in the first two weeks of August and the bodies of heat wave victims—most of them elderly—overfilled morgues and hospitals, the government was increasingly criticized for reacting too slowly and underestimating the scale of the crisis.

Priests and imams in the city's mosques and churches said they were far busier than normal officiating over funerals.

The head of the administrative body that oversees the health system, Gilles Brucker, told Tuesday's issue of Le Monde newspaper there was "obviously... a deficiency" in the way death tolls were reported.

"It isn't acceptable—and in this we no doubt share some of the responsibility—that the information in this area (hospital death tolls) was not shared immediately," he said.

"It isn't acceptable that people start to die in big numbers because of the heat without us, collectively, knowing about it so as to tackle the problem." *AFP*

THE REMAINS of the outdoor restaurant at the Spanish club after it was hit by a suicide bomb attack in Casablanca is pictured in this May 17, 2003 file photo. REUTERS

4 draw death for Casablanca bombings

CASABLANCA, Morocco—A Casablanca criminal court early Tuesday handed down death sentences on four of 87 defendants being tried for the May 16 suicide bombings in Morocco's economic hub.

Three were would-be suicide bombers who had survived while the fourth was a leader of the organization responsible for the attacks that killed 45 people, including 12 of the bombers.

Prison sentences ranging from 10 months to life were handed to the rest of the accused, all suspected members of the Islamic extremist Salafia Jihadia movement who have been on trial since July 21, accused of "acts of sabotage and murder, undermining internal state security, and criminal association."

The death sentences were given to three would-be suicide bombers who decided not to go ahead at the last moment, on the evening of the attacks. They were Mohamed El Omari, a 23-year-old night watchman, Rachid Jalil, a 27-year-old welder, and Yassine Lahnech, a 22-year-old traveling salesman.

The fourth was Hassan Taousi, considered to be a leading member of Salafia Jihadia.

All four were accused of "voluntary homicide with premeditation" as well as facing the other charges. *AFP*

New sniper spree feared in W. Virginia

WASHINGTON—Police in West Virginia are investigating a series of shootings with disturbing similarities to the serial sniper shootings that terrorized the Washington DC region last year.

Over the past week, three apparently unrelated people were shot dead in the state by an unknown assailant, or assailants, firing a small caliber rifle.

Authorities said each of the victims was shot from a distance at area convenience stores.

The first victim, a 44-year-old man, was shot on Aug. 10 while he talked on a public phone in Charleston, the state capital.

Four days later a 31-year-old woman was fatally shot while pumping gas at a convenience store just outside Charleston. Some 90 minutes later a 26-year old man was killed with a shot to the neck at a walk-up store in a nearby town.

Kanawha County sheriff Dave Tucker said Monday that police believed a "heavy white man" may be a suspect in the case, but declined to "put a name" on the crimes as being sniper-perpetrated serial killings.

"The only thing I can say, it's a small caliber... there are similarities but I don't say it's the same," Tucker said at a Charleston press conference.

Tucker said that authorities have "a hundred leads... some very solid" and that among them, police were looking for a recent model dark-colored pickup truck, possible blue or brown in color.

"We are actively pursuing possible suspects," he said.

Earlier Monday, Jerry Pauley, chief of Charleston's police department, told NBC television: "So far we've got some evidence that shows that it could have been the same person or the same type of weapon used."

Pauley said police suspect the shootings may have been random. *AFP*

Carmakers must make power windows safer, group urges

WASHINGTON—Power windows that can trap small hands and heads have led to at least 23 deaths in the last decade, according to consumer advocates who want US automakers to install devices that will keep kids safe.

Kids and Cars, Public Citizen and others are launching a campaign Tuesday for window switches that are harder for children to hit accidentally and windows that stop closing if something gets in their way.

"Detroit-based automakers can prevent children from being killed or injured... but they choose not to," said Janette Fennell, president of Kids and Cars of Kansas City, Kansas.

Kids and Cars has documented 23 deaths from power windows since 1993, but says the total could be much higher. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is studying the problem and plans to release preliminary data on deaths this fall, spokesperson Rae Tyson said Monday.

Kids and Cars plans to file a petition with NHTSA asking the agency to require safer power windows. The group also is running public service announcements.

The campaign doesn't target European or Japanese automakers, which have long included safer switches as a standard feature. Most European cars also have windows that automatically stop closing, according to Consumers Union, the publisher of Consumer Reports.

General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co. and DaimlerChrysler AG said they have safety features in place, including driver-operated lockout switches on all vehicles that prevent children from using windows in the back seat.

They also said any deaths due to power windows are a tragic reminder that children shouldn't be left unsupervised around vehicles.

"We shouldn't leave children alone in vehicles with the keys. That's the only way power windows can operate," GM spokesperson Jim Schell said.

GM is putting European-style switches in new models, such as the 2004 Chevroler Malibu, Schell said. *AP*

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE CITY MAYOR
Lucena City

Mayor Ramon Y. Talaga, Jr.

H.E. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

We, the officials and citizenry of Lucena City wish to express our deepest gratitude to Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for her uprecedented and remarkable Presidential Proclamation No. 436 effecting the transfer of management and ownership of parcels of land in favor of the City Government of Lucena previously registered in the name of Air Transportation Office (ATO).

The said proclamation will pave the way for a decent life of more than 1,000 landless urban poor families and city government employees, and office space for the Department of Education and other facilities that will cater to the needs of the City Government of Lucena.

Now that cornerstone for the groundwork of development intervention was put into place will transform Lucena City into a squatter-free urban community, the common tao has been renewed with hope and vigor and the promise for a brighter future is now within their grasp.

Respectively, hereunder, we affix our signatures in expression of our sincere appreciation for the GMA Administration's urban-poor development program. MABUHAY at MARAMING SALAMAT sa iyo Mahal na Pangulo!

RAMON Y. TALAGA, JR.,
City Mayor

ROMANO FRANCO TALAGA
City Councilor

BUENA LEQUIN
City Councilor

DANILO ZABALLERO
City Councilor

AURORA GARCIA
City Councilor

VICTOR PAULO
City Councilor

PHILIP CASTILLO
City Councilor

WILFREDO ASILO
City Councilor

PHOEBE PELLOBELLO
OIC-Dean, City College of Lucena

DR. YOLITA S. AMISCOSA
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Barangay Captain Ibabang Iyam

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3 killed as rebs attack Navy, Coast Guard

AT LEAST 50 members of the New People's Army's Apolonio Mendoza Command attacked a Navy patrol boat and a Philippine Coast Guard station in Real, Quezon yesterday, killing three persons and wounding three others.

Killed were Master Chief Petty Officer Joseph Dinamarka, officer in charge of the PCG Real station and unidentified members of the Navy and of the NPA. Petty officers Dilao, Mendoza and Verano of the PCG were wounded.

PCG spokesperson Lt. Armand Balilo said the body of the NPA rebel was not recovered but witnesses said they saw the body being carried by his comrades while escaping.

Reports from the PCG said the NPA guerrillas who were on board two motorized patrol boats first attacked the Navy patrol boat (DF-352) anchored off the coast of Real at around 11:30 a.m. and opened fire at the Navy personnel stationed there.

After shooting at the Navy men and taking their firearms, the NPA members landed on shore and tried to overrun the nearby PCG station. Dinamarka was killed while his men were wounded trying to defend the station.

After a 30-minute gunfight, the NPA members left and took with them an M-16 rifle.

Two Air Force helicopters, a police mobile unit and a Navy ship are hunting down the rebels.

Balilo also said that Capt. Willie Tamayog, PCG Southern Tagalog district commander, would go to the PCG Real Station to assess the situation and try to determine if more soldiers are needed there.

He added that yesterday's attack on the PCG Real Station is the second in three years.

The spokesperson also said that Dinamarka was about to retire soon when he was slain in the NPA attack.

The attack in Real came two days after the guerrillas killed Catanduanes deputy police director Chief Insp. Loreto Tablizo in a cockfight arena in the province.

Other witnesses in the Real attack counted at least 100 guerrillas.

The other fatality in the Real attack was identified as Navy Seaman First Ysmael Bernal.

"Government soldiers fought hard up to their last breath," Balilo told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Police said two more unidentified Navy personnel and three Coast Guards were also wounded in the attack. A policeman was also wounded. He was identified as SPO4 Sergio Velasco.

The NPA rebels also took away one machine gun aboard an anchored Navy vessel, DF352, and one M-16 from the Coast Guard detachment.

The raiders escaped in different directions aboard several high-powered pump boats, the report said.

Combined elements from the Army's 59th Infantry Battalion and 414th Police Mobile Group, also based in Real, are helping hunt the rebels.

Communist rebels recently declared a series of tactical offensives against government forces by the newly composed NPA regional striking force. *Leila Salaverria in Manila and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Leader of kidnap gang nabbed, hostages rescued

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The leader of suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits who snatched at least four people from Kiamba, Sarangani province had been arrested.

Sarangani police chief Supt. Willie Dangane told reporters here that Rudy Baroto was arrested in Barangay Tambilil, also in Kiamba, shortly after the hostages had been rescued.

However, Baroto's companions managed to slip past police dragnets.

Dangane said that Baroto, a former leader of Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), has several pending arrest warrants for his involvement in various criminal activities in the area.

Dangane said they were trying to look into suspicions that Baroto has allied himself with the Abu Sayyaf, whose presence had been monitored in nearby Maitum town.

The bandit group, led by Khadaffy Janjalani, reportedly came to Maitum through Palimbang in Sultan Kudarat.

Dangane identified the freed hostages as Imelda Gravino, 27 and her friends Jennifer Guira, 27 and Mary Ann Sasana, 22, all residents of this city.

The victims were on their way here on Monday morning after attending Kiamba's town fiesta when the bandits flagged down the van they were riding.

After divesting the passengers of their valuables, the bandits forcibly took the three victims and the van driver.

The driver was freed a few hours later to relay the group's ransom demand.

Maj. Dencio Antonio, battalion commander of the Army's 7th Special Battalion, told the INQUIRER that his men sighted the bandits as early as noon on Monday.

"When my men sighted the enemies, they fired warning shots. The suspects panicked and scampered, leaving behind their hostages behind," Antonio said.

But the military official said the hostages hid and waited until dusk before coming out for fear that the suspects were still around.

The hostages hiked toward the national highway and hitched in a soft drinks delivery truck.

They requested to be brought to the house of their friend in Kiamba. They then informed authorities about their escape.

Except for some scratches and bruises on their hands, as well as blisters on their feet, the hostages appeared healthy when presented to the media on Tuesday noon. Aquiles Z. Zonio with a report from *Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

NPA land mine explodes, kills 4 Mindoro soldiers

LEGAZPI CITY—At least four members of the Philippine Army stationed in Mindoro Island were killed around 2:40 p.m. Tuesday after a land mine planted by suspected New People's Army rebels exploded.

The soldiers belonged to the 19th Special Forces Company in Barangay Malitbog, Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro.

Maj. Jose Broso, Army spokesperson in Southern Luzon, identified the casualties as 2nd Lt. Cayetano Curitana, the team leader, two corporals and a driver, who were still being identified.

Broso said Curitana's group was on its way to the battalion headquarters on board a jeep when the land mine exploded and threw the vehicle into the air, instantly killing the soldiers.

Broso strongly condemned the "deceptive tactic" being implemented by the rebels just to comply with Ka Roger and Joma Sison's order. *Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Dengue cases up

LEGAZPI CITY—Health authorities have expressed alarm over the increasing number of dengue patients admitted in hospitals that has reached 494 since January this year. This is about 36 percent higher than the number recorded during the same period last year. Dr. Ferchito Avelino, assistant regional director of the Department of Health based in Daraga, Albay, said that Sorsogon had 256 cases; Albay, 119; Masbate, 62; Camarines Sur, 45; Camarines Norte, 7; and Catanduanes, 5. He urged the communities to mobilize for general cleaning to destroy mosquito breeding sites and come up with protective measures like using mosquito nets at night. ***Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

'Lewd' shows nixed

BATANGAS CITY—Residents of Barangay Balagtas has launched a signature campaign urging barangay and city officials to stop nude and 'lewd' shows in this city's red light district. A letter signed by over 300 mostly parents of male high school and college students expressed concern over their sons' nightly pastime that include going to nightclubs. The letter said nightclubs should be closed for good and lewd shows stopped. Provincial board member Jun Berberabe has filed a motion for the board to investigate the matter. Mayor Eduardo Dimacuha ordered police and barangay officials to immediately put a stop to the shows. But barangay council members seem reluctant as they allegedly were getting money from the clubs, according to barangay chairman Arthur Blanco, who himself owns a disco bar. ***Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Lipa foundation date

LIPA CITY—The foundation day celebration of this city next year will be held on June 20, the date when it was approved as a charter city of Batangas province. It took the city council three and a half years to decide on this matter. The city's foundation day has been celebrated on Aug. 31. The move to correct the wrong foundation day was made by Leo Ona, former city tourism council president. "It was Republic Act 162 that created Lipa as a chartered city, and the bill was signed by former President Manuel Roxas on June 20, 1947," Ona said. ***Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Gang busted

DARAGA, Albay—Three members of the notorious Lisay gang wanted in Sorsogon were arrested after they allegedly killed a handicraft worker in a videoke bar on Saturday night. The gang members stabbed to death Noel L. Losinario, 32, of Bulan, Sorsogon and seriously wounded Losinario's companion Jonathan C. Godillo, 22, also of Bulan. The men were fighting over a videoke microphone when they started slugging it out with knives. Police apprehended Arnel G. Lisay, 24, Christopher Lisay alias Tope, Bryan Lisay alias Puto, Johnny Lisay alias Jun-Jun, Eddie Lisay and Banjo Goyena, all residents of Barangay Sipi. Still being hunted down are Christopher and Rodito Lisay. ***Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau.***

Anti-drug body pushed

LUCENA CITY—A Quezon provincial board member pushed for the creation of a province-wide anti-drug abuse council due to reports of rampant illegal drug activities in the province. Board member Eladio Pasamba, in a privilege speech, said, said the proposed body would be composed of multi-sectoral groups. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Nuns who fought Marcos restive

DAVAO CITY--About a hundred progressive nuns from all over Mindanao would gather in this city starting today to make "a broad stance on the current issues of sexual misconduct in the Catholic Church, corruption, the muzzling of the (media) and the Oakwood Mutiny."

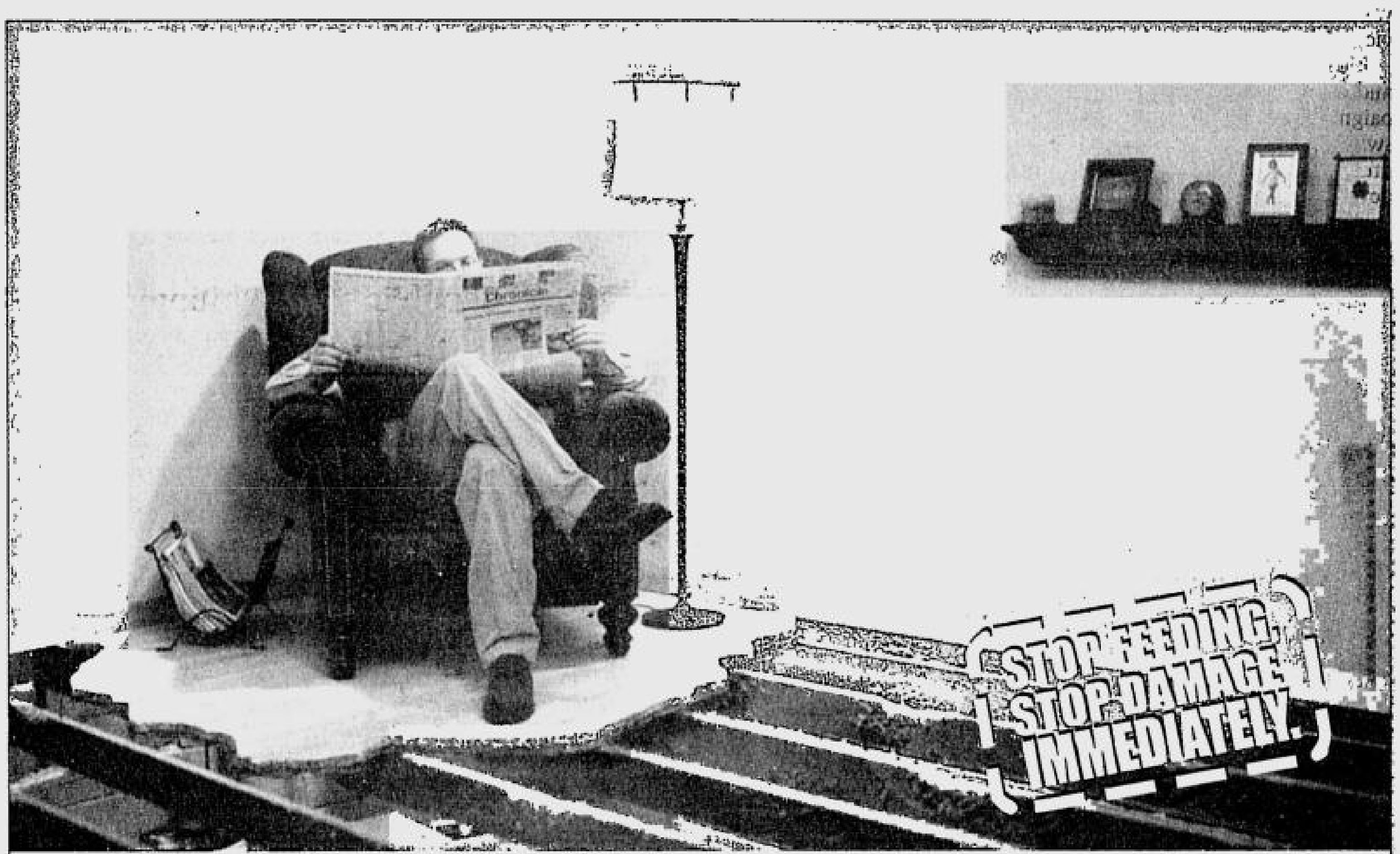
The Sister's Association in Mindanao (SAMIN), said in a statement, that they could not be insensitive and detached from the sufferings of the people.

"Our religious vows were given new meaning as we read and responded to the signs of the times," Said Sr. Mary Antonietta Go, RGS, executive secretary of SAMIN.

Go said nuns would continue to immerse themselves in the life of the poor. She added that they would continue to establish more apostolates, where they become 'a presence of hope' for the poor, involved in the parliament of the streets, and fight for justice and peace.

In an interview yesterday, Go said SAMIN would take up the current issues during their congress "because these have affected the poor people," including nuns themselves.

Go said that although the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines had already taken up the sex scandal issue in the Catholic Church, they would still talk about it in the hope of finding answers to the most pressing controversies hounding the clergy. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



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Assassins miss target in Vizcaya ambush, kill lawyer's bodyguards

VILLAVERDE, Nueva Vizcaya—Three persons were killed while two others were wounded after unidentified gunmen opened fire at the van of a prominent lawyer in an ambush in Barangay Bintawan Sur here on Tuesday.

Police identified the victims as Pedro Ambatali, 52; Arsenio Ambatali, 46, and Andrew Liyadan, 40. They were bodyguards of lawyer Virgil Castro, who was wounded during the ambush.

The victims died of bullet wounds in their heads and bodies after they covered Castro, 54, during the attack.

Police said Pedro Ambatali and Liyadan died instantly while Arsenio Ambatali died while being taken to the Medical Mission Group Hospital in Solano, about 12 km from here.

Another aide of Castro, who was not immediately identified, was wounded and taken to the Veterans' Regional Hospital in Bayombong town.

SPO2 Amado Doles of the Solano police said about six men fired at Castro's Hyundai Grace van while it was negotiating a road in Sitio Nanguyatan at 10 a.m. Tuesday. The suspects reportedly used M-14 and M-16 rifles and a shotgun.

He said they recovered 60 spent shells in the ambush site.

Doles said Castro was able to jump out of the van and hide in a pile of dried rice straws near the road.

Witnesses, who are mostly farmers working in the area, said the suspects were aboard motorcycles and were wearing bonnets.

"We even heard a loud explosion, as if a grenade was thrown," a farmer said.

Other witnesses said Castro was in the town to attend a court hearing.

Albert Ambatali, 36, Pedro's brother, said Castro's group received threats before they were attacked on Tuesday.

"My brother told me about these threats. I think the motive was related to politics because Castro had declared that he will run for mayor in Solano town next year," Albert said.

The ambush was the second attempt on Castro's life after he survived an attack in September last year near his house in Solano town.

Police said the motive in the ambush could either be politics or job-related.

Supt. Jesus Manubay, Nueva Vizcaya police director, said he assigned two policemen to secure Castro after he was ambushed last year. However, the policemen were not with Castro during the Tuesday ambush.

Castro is a former secretary of the Nueva Vizcaya provincial board and former president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) in Nueva Vizcaya. He is the current provincial IBP vice president. *Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Civilians, soldiers link arms in search of drowned DSWD workers

PAGALUNGAN, Maguindanao—The military yesterday hailed what it said was a rare instance of intense civilian-military cooperation in the search for the bodies of two drowned social workers, saying it bore witness to friendly atmosphere in an area torn by armed conflict.

Col. Ben Dolorfino, commander of the 2nd Marine Brigade stationed in barangays Buliok and Kalbugan (not Kabulnan) here, said the recovery operation for Theresa Marquez of the Save the Children Foundation and Mike Borromeo of the Department of Social Welfare and Development proved to be more than that.

He said it led to the rediscovery of the fact that civilians and the military could work together for a cause.

Dolorfino said Maguindanao residents, who found the body of Marquez yesterday morning, turned over the body "with all the jewelry untouched."

A resident said this was rare in an area suspected as a haven of robbers and abductors.

Marquez and a group of social workers were to meet Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman in Buliok on Saturday for the turnover to war victims of government core shelters when the speedboat they were riding in capsized.

Residents said the ill-fated vessel was ferrying around 20 people upstream to Buliok when its underwater quill rammed into the shallower portion of the Kalbugan River, which caused it to tilt and capsize.

They said the river, which is now heavily silted, is not navigable by V-shape bottomed watercrafts. Only flat-bottomed boats could cruise the streams.

Marquez and Borromeo were engulfed by the turbulent water and were the objects of search and rescue operations that lasted until Sunday.

Dolorfino said residents led by their community leader Ding Saldam lighted the river so they could continue the search even at night.

"Even the old ones among them bravely went deep down where few would dare go because it's a rumored crocodile sanctuary," he said.

As he spoke to reporters on the recovery of the cadavers, the Marine officer appeared overwhelmed by the civilian cooperation, least expected in a community often abandoned by fearful war victims.

And to show how happy the military was, a *kanduli* (thanksgiving) was held for the residents at the historic Fort Pikit. *Nash B. Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

CAGED

Ryan Lim/PDI Mindanao Bure

The caged birds that sell for P150 each along the highway of Tagum City attract the birds' most vulnerable patrons—children.

Medicine, worker lack plaguing campaign vs TB

DAVAO CITY—Medicine shortage and the lack of medical technologists are threatening the national anti-tuberculosis program with failure, particularly in the far-flung areas of the country.

During a recent consultative meeting here, medical officers and workers said these were the reasons the country's TB statistics had not decreased over the years.

National Tuberculosis program coordinator Dr. Ernesto Guadalupe said the government must exert efforts to delist TB from the top 10 leading causes of death in the country.

At least 75 Filipinos die everyday due to TB although the disease could be easily cured.

In Central Mindanao for example, the health department recorded at least 1,979 TB cases this year alone.

The tubercle bacilli germ causes TB, an infectious disease usually affecting the lungs. It could be transmitted to other persons through coughing and sneezing. The most common sign of the disease is lingering cough, which usually lasts up to more than two weeks.

The Department of Health in Central Mindanao in its second quarter report for 2003 said North Cotabato ranked first with 525 TB cases; South Cotabato, 397; Sultan Kudarat, 225; Sarangani, 168; General Santos City, 393; Cotabato City, 217, and Kidapawan City, 64.

Dr. Rogelio Chua, regional health chief, told newsmen in a press briefing here Friday that health workers nationwide have been implementing the direct observed treatment short course (DOTS), a strategy, which primary health services worldwide are using to detect and cure TB patients.

Chua said as part of the DOTS strategy, health workers would monitor patients taking doses of the powerful combination of medicines—including the antibiotic Rifampicin—and monitor the progress of their recovery.

"Seventy percent of those affected by TB are breadwinners. For every Filipino who develops TB, one family goes hungry. DOTS will help prevent economic displacement brought about by absenteeism and the loss of jobs from recurrent illness," Chua said.

Chua said they also started the "Bakit Ako Mahihiya" campaign aimed at de-stigmatizing TB. *Rosa-May V. de Guzman with Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Comelec reports heavy turnout at Cebu list-up

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The Commission on Elections has reported a heavy turnout of registrants during the first two days of registration for new and transferee voters despite some technical problems.

The robbery at the Comelec office in San Fernando town, Cebu did not affect the turnout, said Marshall Rubia, the Comelec legal officer in Central Visayas.

Rubia said hundreds of registrants flocked to poll offices in the different municipalities in Cebu. When asked how many went to register in Cebu City, Rubia replied: "thousands."

Yesterday, Rubia said he had to assist the Comelec-Cebu City office because so many new registrants flocked to the office.

"The turnout was heavy although the registration went smoothly," he told the INQUIRER.

The registration of new voters and transferee voters actually started on Aug. 4 but this was moved to Aug. 18 in other areas like Cebu because of the delay in the arrival of machines, forms and technical personnel. The registration will end on Oct. 31.

Only Lapulapu City on Mactan Island did not hold the registration yesterday as Comelec recently annulled the list of all voters in the city due to irregularities in the Voters' Registration Record.

The poll body has not set a schedule for the registration of voters in the city.

Rubia said there were technical problems on how to use data capturing machines, which caused minor delays. But this was addressed immediately, he added.

Unidentified suspects also took a digital camera from the Comelec office in San Fernando, 29.3 km south of here.

Rubia said the camera, worth at least P20,000, was attached to the computer and used in taking photos of the new registrants.

The disappearance of the camera was noticed only on Monday morning, the first day of the registration.

Rubia said the registration pushed through as there was another camera attached to another computer in the San Fernando poll office.

Damage wrought by typhoons, rains forces state of calamity in Tarlac

TARLAC CITY—A string of monsoon rains and typhoons that began hitting Tarlac in July has left a wide swath of destruction worth close to P40 million on rice farms in this city and in 17 towns, prompting the provincial board to declare the province under a state of calamity.

The declaration, made in a resolution approved by the provincial board in its Aug. 13 session, would allow the provincial government to set aside 5 percent of its revenue for the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction of typhoon-ravaged areas in the province.

In a report, the provincial agriculture office (PAO) pegged the amount of damage on rice crops due to typhoon Kabayan and monsoon rains at P38.95 million. On July 31, the PAO placed the value of damaged rice crops due to typhoon Harurot at P15.37 million.

Agriculturist Rogelio Panzo said agriculture officials had sought the declaration of a state of calamity in Tarlac so the province's rehabilitation plan could be carried out immediately.

Panzo said the plan was anchored on the free distribution of 3,000 bags of certified seeds worth P1.95 million to affected farmers. The amount would come from the provincial government's calamity fund.

He said 5,100 bags had been distributed under that scheme.

But the demand for certified seeds is growing due to the massive damage on farmlands wrought by typhoons Harurot and Kabayan. *Russell Arador, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

4 MILF rebels slain in clash

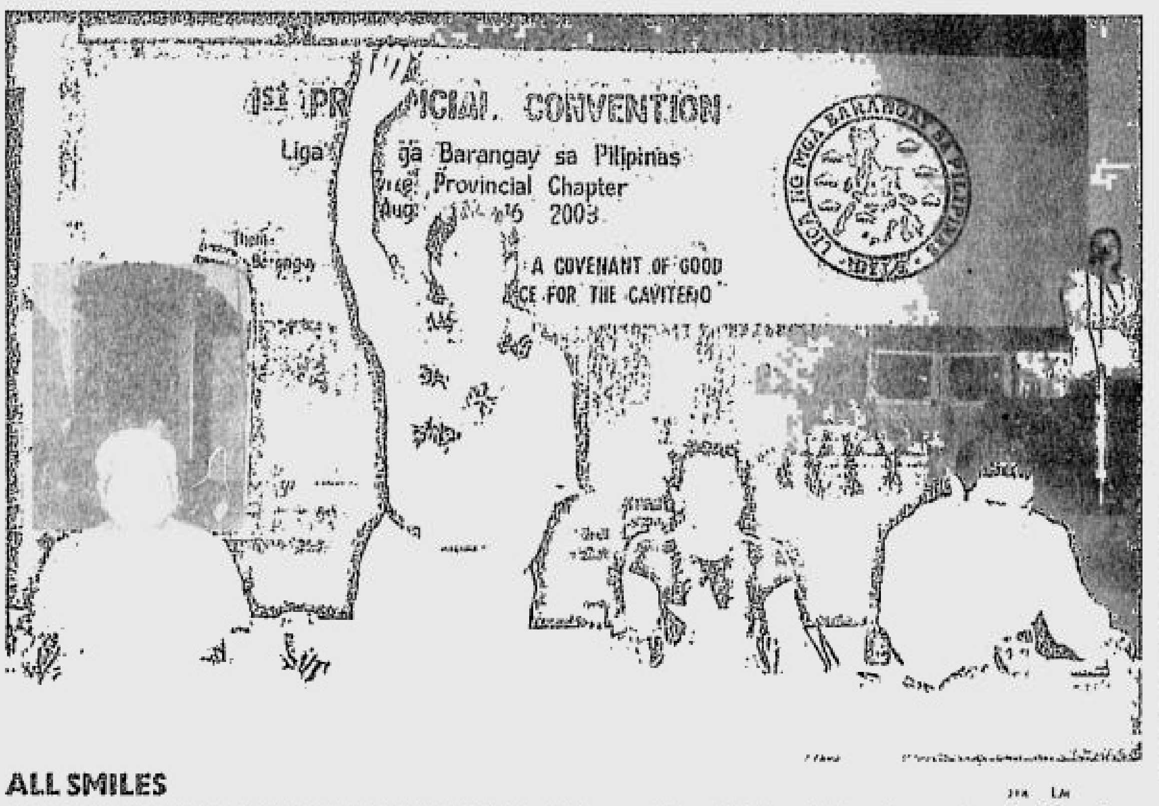
ZAMBOANGA CITY—Government troops killed at least four Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels during a gunfight in Kumalarang, Zamboanga Sibugay on Monday, the military said yesterday.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko said the slain suspects were part of a larger group of MILF rebels trying to stage an attack against residents of Sitio Pulang Bato in Barangay Guminta.

He said the 55th IB, under Col. Ignacio Obligacion, had been informed about the presence of armed men.

Kyamko said Obligacion sent soldiers to verify the report but when they got to the village, the soldiers saw the armed men and a clash ensued.

Kyamko identified three of the slain rebels as Sidik Idris, Jover Ulanda and Gaison Ulanda. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*


1st PR...CIAL CONVENTION
Liga ng Mga Barangay sa Pilipinas
Provincial Chapter
2003
A COVENANT OF GOOD ...CE FOR THE CAVITEÑO

ALL SMILES

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson appears to be in a good mood Aug. 14 days before he went on the Senate floor to denounce the alleged corruption of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo. Lacson and Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta were at a gathering of the Liga ng Mga Barangay sa Pilipinas held in Subic.

Ople urges putting of Quezon in rays of Philippine flag

LUCBAN, Quezon—Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople called on the country's historians and constitutionalists to correct the "historical injustice" committed against Quezon province by including the province among the rays of the Philippine flag representing the eight provinces that led the revolution against Spain.

According to Ople, president of Samahang Balagtas (SB) that started recruiting members here, the province, named after former President Manuel Quezon, should be represented in the flag because the first uprising against Spanish tyranny happened at the foot of Mt. Banahaw through local folk hero Apolinario "Hermano Pule" de la Cruz.

De la Cruz formed the "Confradia de San Jose," a prayer group that later fought Spanish tyranny.

According to historical records, on Oct. 23, 1841 a major battle was fought in Barrio Isabang in nearby Tayabas town. The Confradia won and killed many Spanish leaders including Joaquin Ortega, at that time alcalde mayor. However, Ople said the historical correction should be through a constitutional amendment since the composition of the Philippine flag was explicitly defined in the Charter.

The sun in the Philippine flag has eight rays—representing Manila, Bulacan, Tarlac, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Laguna, Batangas and Cavite—which was listed as the first to take up arms against the Spaniards.

Quezon Rep. Rafael Nantes, member of the SB board of trustees, said he supports Ople's move.

"We also have a place in the sun of the Philippine flag," he said. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
Bureau Chief **Rolando B. Fernandez**

Where Ninoy forgot his political ambition

By Anselmo Roque
Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija

IT WAS already the fourth day of his detention but "Alpha" was barely touching his food. Probably, as the soldiers and officials of the 1st Military Security Detachment (IMSD) tasked with guarding him understood it, "Alpha" was wary that he would be poisoned.

But for the IMSD's civilian-employee Basilisa Tolentino-Ollero, then 28, she had other feelings about it. It somewhat touched on a woman's vanity who prepared food for others, especially to a very important person like "Alpha."

"Alpha," Ollero knew, was former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr., a staunch anti-Marcos figure.

"Didn't he like the food I prepared?" she wondered.

Though strictly prohibited from talking to the detainee, Ollero went to the small room where Aquino was lodged and personally asked him.

An apologetic Aquino replied: "*Ne, ikaw ba ang nagluluto* (Young lady, are you the cook)?" To which she replied: "Yes, sir. *Kasi po, bakit hindi po yata kayo kumakain* (Yes, sir. But I'm wondering why you were not eating your food)?"

"The food is tasty. However, I apologize, I have many ailments. Hypertension, heart condition, ulcer," Aquino told Ollero in Filipino.

"Is that so, sir? Don't worry, I will consider the restrictions in your diet when I prepare your food," Ollero said.

Before she left, she heard Aquino ask for a particular snack that he wanted. "Plain crackers *na lang at* milk (Just serve me plain crackers and milk)," he said.

After that brief dialogue, Ollero said she observed that Aquino started enjoying the food served him. Ollero somehow felt elated about it. Nevertheless, she immediately apologized to the detachment officer-in-charge for breaking the rule when she talked to Aquino.

She knew that she, including the officers and soldiers of IMSD of the Army's Military Security Unit, was under close watch by operatives of the counter-intelligence unit.

The IMSD was then charged with taking care of the two very important political prisoners at that time—former Senators Aquino and Jose W. Diokno.

Ollero was the lone civilian-employee of the IMSD then. She was the researcher, analyst, secretary, part-time radio operator, cook and "whatever our detachment commander told me to do."

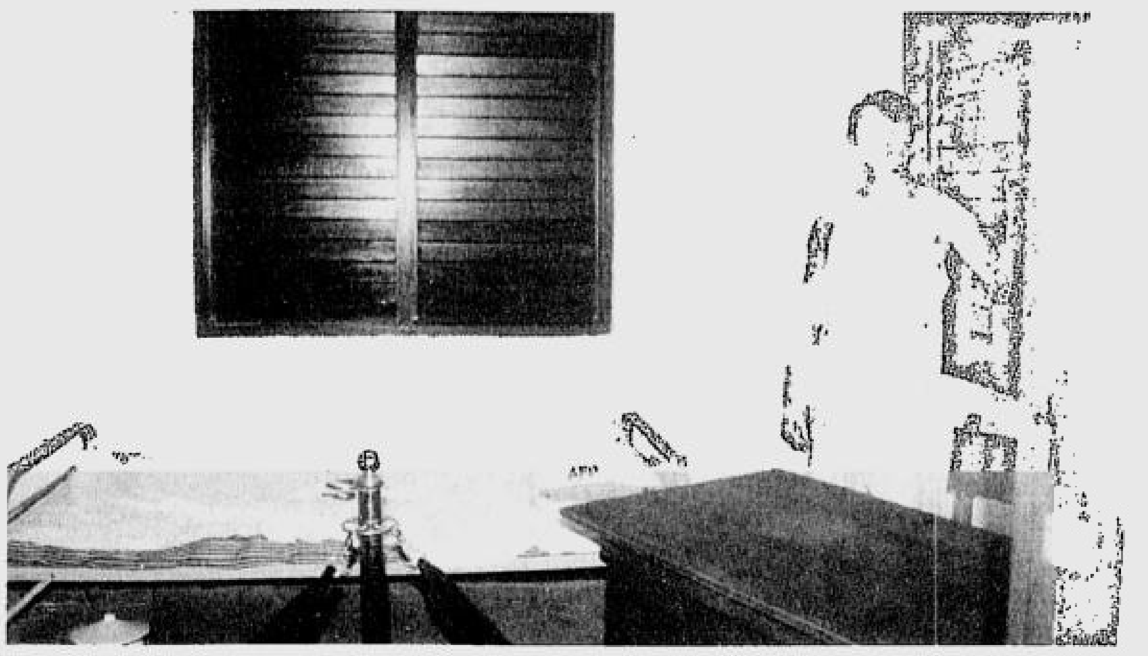
From March 12 to April 11, 1973, she became aware of the spirit-breaking plight of Aquino and Diokno, which those outside of the camp did not know.

She was aware that in that kind of a detention facility, food could be the least of worries of the detainees. The place was simply a "hell-hole."

Handcuffed, blindfolded

They were told early in March 1973 that political detainees would be transferred from Fort Bonifacio in Metro Manila to Fort Magsaysay, Ollero, now 58, recalled.

For two weeks, their detachment headquarters, composed of two Marcos-type school buildings, underwent massive modification. When completed, the buildings and the immediate surrounding looked like a fairly big concentration camp.


A REPLICA of Ninoy's detention room with his wax figure. ANSELMO ROQUE

The whole compound was enclosed by two layers of fence. The inner layer was an eight-foot high fence of barbed wires and the outer, a nine-foot high fence made of *sawali* (woven bamboo mats). On each corner of the outer fence, a 20-foot high wooden sentinel tower was built where armed guards could be posted.

"They were brought in by helicopter about sundown of March 12. They were blindfolded and handcuffed," Ollero recalled. "It was only then that we realized that the detainees were Ninoy Aquino and Pepe Diokno."

The detachment commander, who received them, placed each detainee in separate rooms. Each room measured four by five meters with its wooden jalousie windows completely shut. These were nailed and covered with thick plywood reinforced by iron grills. There was no electric fan and light was coming only from a ceiling lamp.

The detainees could not determine the time of the day as there was no wall clock and their wristwatches were confiscated. The passing of the day and night couldn't be determined either as the lamp was kept lighted 24 hours a day.

No other clothing was provided them. Thus, they had only the pair of trousers and shirt they wore when they were brought in and an extra *sando* and *karsunsilyo* (men's underwear).

The detainees were not allowed to talk to each other. The guards or duty personnel were also on strict instruction not to talk with the detainees nor answer any query from them.

The detainees were not stopped from singing, though, Ollero said. Other detachment personnel recalled that Aquino and Diokno frequently sang alternately to while their time away. If one sang "Lupang Hinirang," the other would respond by singing "Bayan Ko," they said.

The detachment personnel said they interpreted these singing episodes as one of the ways that Aquino and Diokno used to determine if the other was still in the detention cell.

Piped-in music was provided in the detention facility. The music, which was played over and over again, however, was meant more to deceive the detainees. In that early summer, Christmas carols were played.

Accounts pieced together about the detention of Aquino and Diokno revealed that the two determined the passing of each day through ingenious means.

Aquino was said to put marks on the window frames to determine the passing of each day. He reportedly determined that it was noon by peeping through a hole directly fronting a big post. The shadow cast by the post made him more or less aware if it was already noon.

On the other hand, Diokno marked the passing of each day by using tobacco residue in his pipe, which he deposited in an empty soapbox. Later, he marked the passing of the day by tying knots in his mosquito net.

Diokno thus surprised the jail warden when he asked on March 21, 1973 for 21 roses to be sent to his wife on the occasion of their wedding anniversary that day.

On April 8, 1973, after weeks of searching for her husband, Corazon Aquino was allowed to visit him. They met and talked, separated by a screened door. Only the guards were there to witness that meeting.

Three days after that meeting, Aquino and Diokno were flown back to Fort Bonifacio.

Memorial

The detention of the two former senators has been memorialized through a shrine now called the "Aquino-Diokno Memorial." The shrine was inaugurated on Feb. 25 this year during the 17th anniversary of the 1986 Edsa Revolution.

Life-size wax figures of Aquino and Diokno, in their undergarments, are shown in the respective cells.

A quote from Aquino inside the facility summed up what happened to him during his detention. It reads: "I was able to talk with God and that gave me the strength and the spirit to fight for the Filipino people, to forget my political ambition, but to pursue a mission—to unify the people and attain their quest for progress and democracy."

On the trail of Cecile Licad

By Elizabeth Lolarga
Contributor

WHEN you have nothing more to prove, you can just be yourself—relaxed and undemanding in private but disciplined, intense and passionate in the execution of one's vocation.

This is one of the lessons pianist Cecile Buencamino Licad imparted by example during her journey to Muñoz City where she performed for the first time at the new Philippine Carabao Center Conference Hall Monday night.

The solo recitals, part of her outreach performances that will be heard live again tonight at the Philamlife auditorium on United Nations Ave., Manila, then on Aug. 24 at 3 p.m. at Silangan Gardens in Grand Heights, Antipolo City, and Aug. 27 at 7 p.m. at the Mother Madeleine Hall, St. Paul University, Tuguegararo City, drew people not just from Nueva Ecija but from neighboring Tarlac, Pangasinan and Pampanga.

Some Licad admirers, including Cebu-based pianist Ingrid Sala Santamaria and Emmanuel Freires of Manila, traveled by land to watch and listen to the alternating vigor and poesy with which the musical artist interpreted Beethoven's "Sonata Op. 81a," Debussy's "Estampes," Schumann's "Sonata No. 2 in G Minor Op. 22" and Chopin's "24 Preludes."

Her journey that began Sunday was as interesting as her arrival, made doubly so by her friend Pablo Tariman and Mayor Nestor Alvarez who hosted her stay at the guest house of the Central Luzon State University.

Somewhere along the North Expressway, in the van that ferried her to Munoz, she thought aloud, "I'm playing a whole recital there. Can they take it?"

Tariman answered with another question," You know who's going to be there?"

Licad: "Who?"

Tariman: "Ingrid."

Licad: "Now I'm nervous."

Tariman: "She plays eight concertos a day!"

In last Saturday's concert with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra at the Philamlife auditorium, she obliged the cheering audience with three encores, the last of which was a Chopin piece.

She described it as the one her late father, surgeon Jesus Licad, would tell her to play by way of saying good night. "I was always happy to play it because it meant that I was finished practicing."

She was curious about the goings-on in Philippine society. She asked, "Whatever happened to the Nida Blanca case?" Tariman summarized the situation: "The husband has to return to face the music. He's the only suspect. *Wala nang iba* (There is no other)."

As the four-and-a-half-hour-long journey went on, there was much ribbing and recollection about her visit to Mindanao last year when she was brought to the Pearl Farm in Davao. She later learned some tourists there were abducted.

LICAD ELIZABETH LOLARGA

This tag-along writer couldn't help interjecting: "If ever you're kidnapped, ransom won't be a problem. Your fans will take care of you. But what about Pablo?"

Tariman got into the spirit of things and said his perceived "enemies," who have the wherewithal to ransom him, "might let me rot in Basilan and bar any fundraising efforts in my name."

He miscalculated the length of the journey. When the driver from the mayor's office said it would take another two hours, Licad said, "Then give me more *chicharon*."

The plastic bag filled with the salty, crunchy, cholesterol-rich delicacy bought from a store in San Ildefonso, Bulacan, was passed back and forth from Licad's hand to mine, then to Tariman's.

Although I scarcely touched the stuff, the crackly sound the two made as they munched the pigskin with layers of fat con gusto pervaded the vehicle.

I said that this might be the beginning of a point and counterpoint, what Tariman titled "The Chicharon Symphony." Maybe an avant-garde composer or performance artist can pick up this idea in the future.

Alvarez said he has avidly followed reports and reviews of Licad's career. When he read that she performed in Tuguegarao, which is 10 hours by land from Manila, he felt envious and asked, "Why can she go there and not here, too?"

So he got in touch with Tariman when he learned that she would be visiting her homeland again and was open to provincial bookings.

He considered it his mission to enhance his city's reputation also as a cultural destination by exposing even field hands, farmers, government and private-sector employees, schoolchildren—his constituents, in short-to the best fare that Manilans take for granted.

"I want to balance the science component with the arts," he said. Muñoz has a "big potential of becoming a regional cultural center" since it is centrally located.

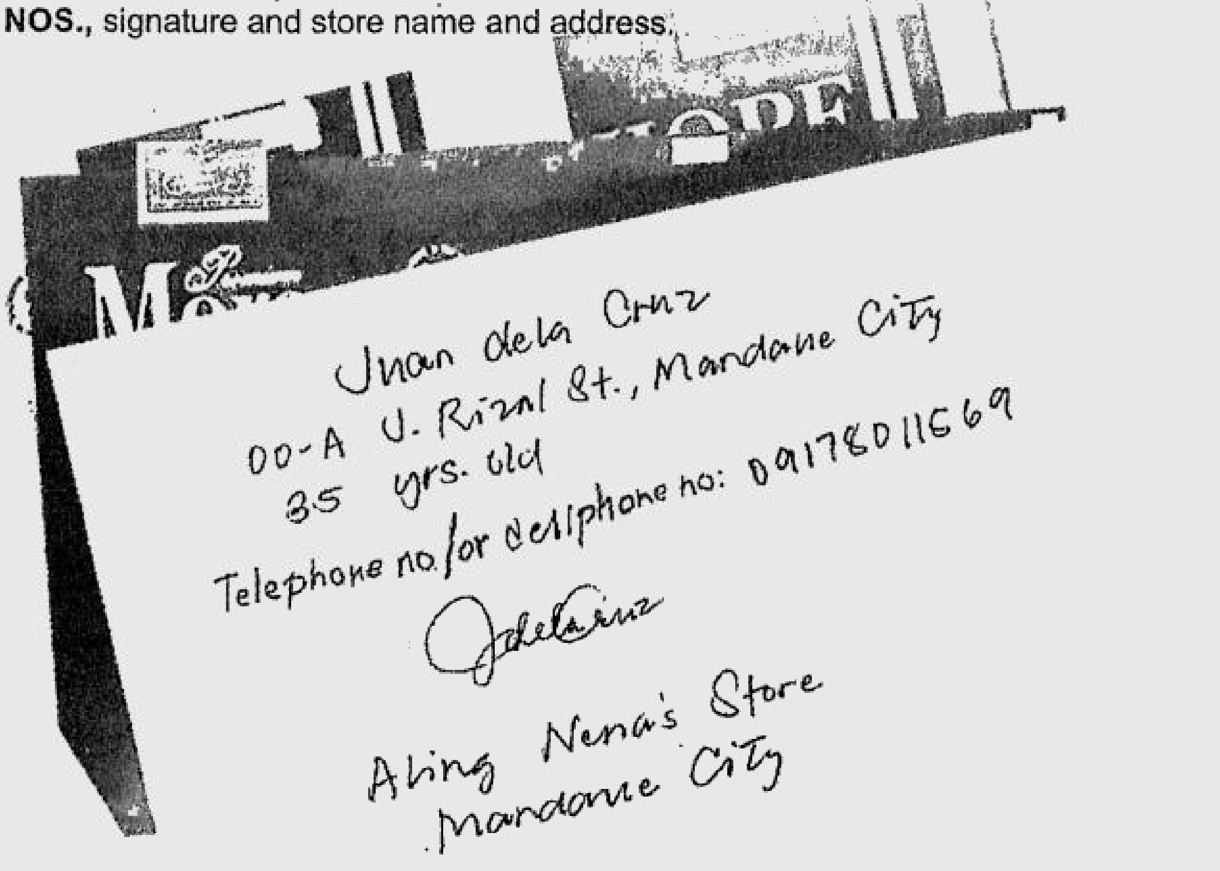
You can still catch Licad. For ticket reservations, contact 0918-737-6901.

HOPE & More

MEGA MILLION STAKES

PROMO UPDATE

Here's the latest on the biggest, longest-running promo. So winners can be notified immediately after each draw, **RESIDENCE TELEPHONE OR CELLPHONE NOS. ARE TO BE WRITTEN IN THE ENTRIES.** Thus, entry forms for the next draws should contain the following; name, address, age, **TELEPHONE/CELLPHONE NOS.**, signature and store name and address.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Goverment Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

More execs flunk lifestyle check

From page A1

declared real and personal property worth P81.7 million, on top of his declared net worth of P12.9 million in 2001. His annual salary amounted to only P307,116, the Transparency Group said.

The five officials will be charged along with their spouses, children or relatives who were allegedly used as dummies. The government is asking the Ombudsman for their suspension as well as the forfeiture of their supposed illegal wealth and property.

None of the five could be reached for comment yesterday.

Pleyto and Valera were supposedly attending meetings, and Panganiban was allegedly "floating" and had not reported for work since the ouster of President Joseph Estrada in 2001.

"[Pleyto] is in Malacañang, meeting with Waldo Flores," a member of Pleyto's staff said when the Inquirer reached his office by phone.

Members of the BOC public information unit said they were not sure if they had the correct phone numbers of Maglipon and Aguilar.

Pleyto is so far the highest official to be charged in the Macapagal administration's touted battle against graft and corruption in the government.

Four officials of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the BOC were charged last month with graft after they also failed the lifestyle check conducted by the Department of Finance.

P30-M cockpit

The Transparency Group said that:

- Among Panganiban's undeclared assets were a "modern cockpit" in Sta. Cruz, Laguna, worth P30 million; a house and lot in posh Ayala Alábang Village, P24.8 million; a three-bedroom house and lot in Pasadena, California, $300,000 (P15 million); and a P4.8-million ransom paid to his kidnappers.
- Pleyto (annual salary: P346,500), who declared a net worth of P4.5 million and P5.9 million in his Statements of Assets and Liabilities for 2001 and 2002, respectively, had undeclared real property worth P16.6 million. He has traveled 17 times abroad with his wife since 1995.
- Maglipon (annual salary: P266,964), deputy collector since 1995, declared assets worth P9 million and no liabilities in 2002. But he has real and personal property worth P13 million, including six high-powered firearms and five luxury vehicles.
- Aguilar (P249,876), who has been with the BOC for 28 years, declared a net worth of P1.1 million in 2002. She did not declare at least three pieces of real property as well as luxury vehicles, including two BMWs. Two persons—BOC employee Honore Hernandez and private citizen Carlo Gupilan—were implicated in the graft case to be filed against her.
- Valera (annual salary: P292,272) has financial interests in a brokerage firm that entered into a compromise deal with another, allegedly resulting in uncollected revenues of P14.7 million.

Assistant Secretary Nick Comti, head of the Transparency Group under the office of Rigoberto Tiglao, President Macapagal-Arroyo's chief of staff, said the five officials were in a "long list of officials suspected of having unexplained wealth."

"These are the people known for notoriety in their own departments," he said.

Comti said the Transparency Group, aided by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and the Ombudsman, started investigating the five officials in April.

But the Office of the President had received complaints and tips against them long before then, he said.

Panganiban

Panganiban, an engineer, was earlier asked to appear before the Transparency Group to explain his failure to declare his real and personal property. But he failed or refused to comply.

The investigation showed that Panganiban's undisclosed assets were bigger than his net worth of 12.9 million as of 2001; that he had undeclared real property worth P73.2 million and undeclared personal property amounting to P8.4 million; and that his personal assets included P4.850 million he paid as ransom to his kidnappers, foreign travels and an undeclared 9mm pistol.

Panganiban also reportedly owns a house and lot worth P1.28 million at Sacay Grand Villas, Batong Malake, Los Baños, Laguna, bought on June 28, 1994; a four-story commercial building on Regidor Street, Sta. Cruz, Laguna, worth P2 million but declared as P200,000; and a 200-square-meter lot worth P146,000 in Calios, also in Sta. Cruz.

A house and lot at No. 430, San Bartolome St. in Ayala Alabang, worth P24.8 million, is reportedly in the name of his sister Elsa de Luna, and the house at No. 2480 Heritage Drive, Pasadena, in the names of his wife Fe and their daughter Geraldine.

The cockpit in Barangay Bukal, Sta. Cruz, Laguna, is in the names of his sisters Elsa de Luna and Purita Sarmiento, with brothers-in-law Ricardo Obligacion, Eddie Opulencia and Roberto de la Virgen as stockholders. The land is reportedly registered in the name of Asia Construction, owned by his brother-in-law Emiliano de Luna Jr.

Panganiban is liable for violation of Sections 4 of Republic Act 6713 (the Code of Conduct of Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees), and RA 3019 (the Statements of Assets and Liabilities-Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act), and the Revised Penal Code, the Transparency Group said.

He is also liable for violation of RA 1319, the Ill-gotten Wealth Act, together with his wife Fe, daughter Geraldine, sisters Elsa and Purita, and brothers-in-law Ricardo Obligacion, Eddie Opulencia and Romeo de la Virgen, it said.

Pleyto

Pleyto reportedly amassed P16.6 million worth of real property in Sta. Maria, Bulacan, most of which are in the names of his wife Miguela and their children Russel, Mary Grace and Salvador Jr.

The evidence against him includes a list of his real property in Poblacion, Pulong Buhangin, Caypombo and Catmon, all in Sta. Maria, aside from their house at May Street, Congressional Village, Quezon City.

Pleyto has reportedly made 17 trips .abroad together with his wife since 1995, of which only nine were authorized. Immigration records showed that he took Salvador Jr. on an official trip to Kuala Lumpur and an unofficial trip to the United States, while Russel had six trips abroad.

The Transparency Group said the Pleytos' trips amounted to P3.7 million.

Pleyto will be charged with graft and violation of the SAL law.

Maglipon

Investigators found that Maglipon had declared only one house and lot—at 14 Turquoise St., Dona Juana Subdivision, Pasig City—in his SAL for the past three years.

"At first glance, this looks like a big house built on a lot. A second hard look ... will show that this big house is built ... on two lots," the Transparency Group said.

Records showed that the 318-sq.m. Lot No. 7, Blk 5 was registered under spouses Maglipon and his wife Norma, and a 302-sq.m. Lot No. 8, Blk 5, with improvements, under their son Jaime Jr.

The Transparency Group said Maglipon's intention to hide the true ownership of the property house and lots was immediately apparent.

It said a house and lot at 35 Topaz St., Doña Juana Subdivision, was in the name of Arminamel, the couple's eldest daughter, but a lease contract dated July 26, 2001, showed that it was leased by the couple as owners-lessors to Golden Pan de Sal for five years.

The third property used "beneficially" by the Maglipons is reportedly the "North Star Place," on Legaspi Street, Parkwood Green Village, Maybunga, Pasig. It is built on a 361-sq.m. lot and owned by Danilo Ablan, brother of Norma.

But it was reportedly Maglipon who worked on the papers of the property. In his 2002 SAL, he supposedly declared his business interest (North Star Millennium) in the same address.

Two other pieces of land in Parkwood Green Village are supposedly in the name of Ma. Concepcion, Maglipon's daughter who is married to police officer Erick Kagaoan.

Maglipon reportedly failed to accurately list his personal property, including these firearms: cal. 30 carbine, 9 mm UZI machine pistol, 12-gauge Mossberg shotgun, cal. 45 pistol, cal. 45 Colt pistol, and an Armalite rifle.

Surveillance on his residence on a weekend showed such vehicles as a Honda Civic (JJJ 404) and a Toyota Surf Wagon Hi-Lux (XGA 818), both in his name; a Toyota Prado (JPM 808) and a Mitsubishi Pajero (XEU 968), in Ma. Concepcion's name; and a Mitsubishi Pajero (JMJ 202), in Danilo Ablan's name.

Maglipon reportedly explained that he acquired the two lots before he joined the BOC—one "assigned" to him by his mother and the other acquired through a government loan.

He reportedly said he won P5 million in a sweepstakes draw on April 11, 1993, and his wife won a brand-new Nissan Sentra car on May 31, 1992, in the grand raffle for the benefit of the Divine Mercy Charity Lying-in Clinic.

He was also quoted as saying that his children had the capacity to buy property.

Aguilar

The Transparency Group said Aguilar had a net worth of P1.1 million for 2002.

Investigators found that she did not report the following pieces of property: Blk 21 Lot 6, BIR Village, Fairview, Quezon City, worth P1 million; unit 1007-A Antel Seaview Towers, 2626 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City, worth P12 million; and a residential lot at Panicuason, Naga City, worth P148,200.

Four vehicles were also traced to Aguilar: a Honda CRV (BIM 888), P1 million; an Isuzu trooper (HRH 659), P1.5 million, under the name of BOC employee Honore Hernandez; a red BMW (XCR 500) under Asia International Auctioneer Inc., Subic; and a silver BMW (XFD 441) under Southering Heavy Industries, Olongapo City.

Aguilar reportedly made 13 trips abroad, only five of which were authorized. Her daughter Josephine traveled with her in all the trips, which reportedly cost P2.6 million.

Her other daughters Regina and Bethina also made eight trips each, which may have cost P3.4 million. *With a report from Martin P. Marfil*

GMA smothers GMA 7 reporter with attention

From page A1

members offered her red roses, although it was Perez's colleague, Richel Sy, who received the flowers as Perez was still held up in Cavite.

But just as things were about to go well, Ms Macapagal made another boo-boo: She tried to move her dinner for Palace reporters to the controversial LTA Building in Makati City to show that it was not the "mysterious" place Sen. Panfilo Lacson had painted it to be.

Press corps objects

Members of the Malacañang Press Corps (MPC) objected to the last-minute change in plan, saying they did not want to be "used" in the fight between the government and its detractors.

"The President initially thought the LTA Building has been described as a mysterious office where so many things are allegedly going on and we thought it might be a good idea for you to visit and see for yourselves what the building looks like," presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye explained to members of the press.

Lacson, in a privilege speech on Monday, claimed First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo was maintaining a "Jose Pidal" account with more than P200 million from deals allegedly made in the LTA Building. He described the building as "a money machine where incredible deals are cooked and sinister schemes plotted."

When she learned about the MPC's reluctance to have dinner at the LTA Building, Bunye said Ms Macapagal indicated that she was willing to host a separate cocktail for those who "could not make it" to Makati.

Later, however, it was finally decided to hold the dinner at the original venue: the Malacañang Heroes' Hall.

Around 80 people—members of the MPC and their spouses—are expected to attend the dinner.

TV reporter speechless

The dinner was prompted by the negative reports generated by the President's tongue-lashing of Perez in front of around 100 people during a gathering in Calapan, Oriental Mindoro, last Friday night. During that confrontation, Ms Macapagal had insisted that according to a report by her "assets," Perez met with Honasan and interviewed him when the state of rebellion was still in effect. Perez aired her exclusive on Aug. 12, a day after the President had lifted the state of rebellion.

Yesterday, Perez said she was "relieved" by the President's tight embrace. She said all she was able to say was "Ma'am."

During the regular press briefing in the Palace yesterday, Bunye was asked by reporters if the President was going to apologize for berating Perez and threatening her with charges of abetting rebellion.

"Well, I believe something happened in (Carmona) and I think actions speak louder than words," Bunye replied. "The President hugged Tina. No further words need to be spoken."

Palace reporters were amused by Bunye's announcement of the "presidential hug."

Then just before the briefing ended, Bunye pulled out a bunch of roses from under his table, saying it was a peace offering from him and two other Cabinet officials who were former mediamen—Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao and Press Secretary Milton Alingod.

He said the nine long-stemmed red roses signaled that "all's well that ends well."

"We would like to extend our hand (of reconciliation) to Tina," Bunye said.

But because Perez was still in Cavite, Bunye asked Sy to receive the flowers for her partner.

Yuck

"Yuck!" said Malacañang reporters.

On Saturday, the President went to the GMA 7 office in Quezon City to explain the Mindoro incident to the television network's management. Bunye said the President assured GMA 7 that no legal action would be taken against Perez and that her administration would never suppress the freedom of the press.

Apparently thinking that that was not enough, Ms Macapagal yesterday issued a statement saying "the media has always been an ally in the preservation of democracy... We have no controversy with the media as far as our respective roles in the democratic system are concerned."

Reporters not impressed

Malacañang's conciliatory overtures notwithstanding, the MPC issued a press statement yesterday expressing "deep concern" over the "incident" between the President and Perez in Mindoro and its implications on press freedom.

The MPC said it viewed the President's statement that Perez was "abetting rebellion" when she interviewed Honasan as an "unmistakable form of threat, indirect or otherwise."

It also expressed concern over the President's disclosure that government "assets" saw Perez meeting with Honasan.

"We are against any form of surveillance of media practitioners in the conduct of their legitimate work as this not only endangers them but stifles the spirit of journalistic enterprise," the MPC said.

"We further express our apprehension over the ensuing statements made by Malacañang officials prescribing media conduct in writing their stories and getting to their sources, in the name of national security.

"While we believe in a strong partnership between the state and media, this can only exist in the spirit by which these two institutions were founded—the state to govern, and the press to point out the inequities of governance."

Ebdane retracts

Philippine National Police chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. yesterday retracted his earlier admission that some members of the media were under surveillance.

"Based on (my) verification with all line units and intelligence offices, there is no surveillance of any member of the media at this time," he said in a statement. *With reports from Christian Esguerra and Justine Marie L. Santos, trainee*

Mike's great ...

From page A1

Arroyo who served three terms from 1919 to 1928.

In a statement, the First Gentleman categorically denied Lacson's "malicious imputation" that he used the name of Jose Pidal or that he owns the so-called Jose Pidal account.

But the name Jose Ma. Pidal Arroyo is right under the nose of the Senate, the first legislature in the country.

Right in the halls of the Senate building in Pasay City, wooden plaques hanging there listed the names of senators since the first legislature of the Philippines and they included the name of Jose Ma. Pidal Arroyo.

Case resolution

In the resolution of the case docketed G.R. No. L-44204 dated July 11, 1985, the high court named Pidal as the first wife of Ignacio Arroyo. They had three children: the senator, Jose Ma. Pidal Arroyo, Jose Ma. Arroyo, Rosario Arroyo and Mariano Arroyo.

Jose Ma. Pidal Arroyo, who died on March 8, 1927, was married to Jesusa Lacson, according to the high court resolution.

They had seven children, namely: Jose, Mariano, Pedro, Ignacio and Antonio, and two unnamed sisters.

First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo is the son of Ignacio Lacson Arroyo and Lourdes Zaragoza Tuason, now both deceased.

The resolution affirmed the decision of the Court of Appeals, which in turned affirmed the judgment of the Court of First Instance of Negros concerning a land dispute case involving petitioner Beaterio del Santisimo Rosario de Molo and the Arroyo family in Negros Occidental.

In the discussion of the case, it was stated that Sen. Jose Arroyo is the son of Ignacio Arroyo and his mother, a Maria Pidal.

The resolution is posted at www.lawphil.net/judjuris/juri1985/jul1985/gr_l44204_1985.html. Lawphil.net and is maintained by the Information Technology Center of the Arellano Law Foundation, a non-stock non-profit institution specializing in legal education.

The full text of jurisprudence on cases involving Ignacio Arroyo is also posted on the site.

Salvilla said the late senator was a former *kapitan* of the then town of Molo while Mariano was the former governor of Iloilo before World War II. Their sister, Rosario, was the first Filipino nun and founder of the Dominican Sisters, according to Salvilla.

Does not know

But Mr. Mike Arroyo's brother, businessman Ignacio Arroyo, told the Inquirer he does not know if their family had a grandfather bearing the name of Jose Ma. Pidal Arroyo reportedly from Iloilo City.

Ignacio Arroyo did say their paternal grandfather from Iloilo was Sen. Jose Maria Arroyo who married Jesusa Lacson, the daughter of Gen. Aniceto Lacson, a Negrense revolutionary hero.

He said his grandfather died young so his grandmother brought her children, including his father Ignacio Arroyo Sr., to Negros Occidental to live.

Ignacio said they were checking reports that one Jose Pidal Arroyo served as mayor in Iloilo but, he said, they did not know such a person.

Name in roster

Jose Pidal Arroyo's forebears do not have to look far.

A book titled "Roster of the Philippine Legislators 1907-1987" listed Jose. Ma. Arroyo to have served as senator of the 7th senatorial district of Iloilo, Capiz and Romblon.

Surprise

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson himself expressed surprise yesterday about this revelation, since he accused the First Gentleman the other day of amassing over P270 million from campaign contributions to President Macapagal-Arroyo and keeping them in secret bank accounts, including that under the name of a "Jose Pidal."

"We didn't know until last night when an enterprising television network researched his family tree," Lacson told reporters.

'Jose Velarde' ...

From page A1

alias "Jose Velarde" to hide billions in a bank account yesterday dared President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband to disprove allegations that he was using dummies and the alias "Jose Pidal" to launder more than P200 million in several bank accounts.

Mike Arroyo has dismissed Sen. Panfilo Lacson's allegations as pure lies.

Even so, Estrada said that just as he had pointed to Jaime Dichavez, his close friend and business partner, as the real owner of the Jose Velarde bank account, Arroyo must do the same in connection with the Jose Pidal account.

"*Yung Jose Velarde, may Jose Velarde talaga gumamit, may Jaime Dichavez* (Regarding Jose Velarde, there was someone who used the Jose Velarde alias, there is a Jaime Dichavez," Estrada told the Inquirer in a telephone interview from his special detention suite at the Veterans Medical Memorial Center in Quezon City.

"He (Arroyo) must produce Jose Pidal," Estrada insisted even though he could not present Dichavez in court to testify in his behalf. His close friend fled the country after Estrada was ousted from power in the 2001 Edsa II and replaced by then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Estrada lost the support of the people, government and military a month after Clarissa Ocampo, Equitable PCIBank senior vice president, testified at the impeachment trial that she personally saw him sign several bank documents authorizing the transfer of P500 million from the so-called Jose Velarde account to William Gatchalian's company. She said Estrada used the alias Jose Velarde in signing the loan documents.

Even so, Estrada said he still had the second unopened envelope at the failed impeachment trial to prove that he was not Jose Velarde.

Unlike him, Estrada said Arroyo would have a problem in disproving to the public that Jose Pidal was his alias.

"How can he produce Pidal since the real Jose Pidal, Mike Arroyo's grandfather, is now dead?" Estrada said, adding that Pidal used to be an Iloilo mayor.

Estrada was misinformed. Research on Arroyo's family tree showed that the First Gentleman had no grandfather by the name of Jose Pidal. Arroyo, though, had a great-grandmother by the name of Maria Pidal. *(See story on Page A1)*

Still, Estrada said President Macapagal and First Gentleman Arroyo were now reaping the whirlwind for disregarding the Constitution and illegally removing him from office—even though the Supreme Court had upheld the legitimacy of the Macapagal presidency.

"This is now karma working against the Arroyos and their conjugal corruption," he said.

Estrada scoffed at Ms Macapagal's directive that a lifestyle check be conducted on her family.

"They and their cronies will be the ones doing the investigation," Estrada said.

"The PAGC (Presidential Anti-Graft Commission) and the Office of the Ombudsman are all under 'The Firm,'" he said, referring to the Carpio, Villaraza and Cruz law office.

Simeon Marcelo, who used to work with the law firm, now heads the Office of the Ombudsman.

Estrada said that if Ms Macapagal wanted to show that she was serious in the fight against graft, then she should create an independent body chaired by an administration and opposition leader.

To restore confidence in the presidency, Malacañang should ensure a speedy investigation of Lacson's charges, Estrada said.

Ping seeks freeze of Pidal accounts

From page A1

appear before a Senate inquiry to substantiate his accusations against Arroyo.

Laundering

Lacson said his main informant had worked in the office of Arroyo in Makati. "(The informant) is one foot away, because he joins in the counting of the money," the senator said of his main witness against the husband of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Lacson said Arroyo used the bank accounts of "Jose Pidal," Victoria Toh, Kelvin Tan and Thomas Toh in laundering the money.

Their accounts are in three banks all located on Perea Street in Legazpi Vilage, Makati, the same street where Arroyo is holding office, according to Lacson.

The opposition senator said in a privileged speech on Monday that Jose Pidal was none other than the First Gentleman as their signatures bore strong resemblance. Toh is Arroyo's personal secretary and sister of Thomas, while Tan is the secretary's brother-in-law.

Lacson said Arroyo violated the Anti-graft and Corrupt Practices Act because the campaign funds that he kept came from private persons like former Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez.

Union Bank

As the spouse of the highest official of the land, Arroyo could be held liable for violating the law whose coverage "is not limited to government officials but also involves relatives up to the second degree" of consanguinity, Lacson said.

In his letter to AMLC Chair Vicente Aquino, Lacson sought the investigation of the bank accounts of Pidal in Union bank (000730014836) and in the BPI Family Bank (6615-497-7) and those of Victoria Toh in Union Bank (0730018209), Thomas Toh in Union Bank (0073001993-7), and Kelvin Tan in Union Bank (073001833-7) and International Exchange Bank (0410200170-20).

"In (my privileged) speech, I have mentioned several bank accounts containing considerable amounts of money, which, from all indications, appear as suspicious accounts as they are either in the name of a client who is not properly identified or that the amount involved is not commensurate with the business or financial capacity of the client," Lacson said in his letter.

Under the Anti-Money Laundering Law, the AMLC can act on its own even without his request, Lacson told reporters.

The AMLC said it would take its cue from the exposé of Lacson and study whether it should investigate the alleged secret bank accounts of the First Gentleman and his alleged money laundering activities.

Supporting evidence

But "the Amla will request Senator Lacson for a copy of his report concerning alleged bank accounts subject thereof including supporting evidence so that we can study the matter," the council said in a statement. "Until we have gone over and studied the report and its supporting evidence, we cannot make a comment thereon."

The council is tasked with investigating money laundering and with regulating institutions like banks, investment houses, securities firms and insurance companies. It is chaired by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas governor. Its members include the commissioners of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Insurance Commission.

Unlike the $2-million deposits of former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez in Switzerland, the alleged secret accounts of Arroyo are within the coverage of the council.

"The Perez account apparently did not go through the local banking system and so is not covered by AMLC. But anything that passed or is retained in the local banking system could be investigated," said a government source. Perez's deposit in Switzerland is already considered a suspicious account.

The AMLC has yet to receive any documents from Lacson, according to Aquino. "But we intend to request his office to furnish the report and the supporting evidence so we can study it. At this point, it is premature to say if there is lack or sufficient evidence," he said.

After studying Lacson's allegations, the council will decide whether the case is worth pursuing or not, according to Aquino. "We shall see if there is a need to take further appropriate action," Aquino said.

He said the council could order institutions like banks to cooperate. Otherwise, these institutions could be slapped with a fine and its officer even imprisoned.

A bank has to report immediately any suspicious transaction to the council. Willfully failing to report any suspicious transaction could prompt the Council to suspend or revoke the license of a bank, aside from fining and jailing its officers, according to Aquino.

The banks mentioned in the Lacson exposé were Union Bank of the Philippines controlled by the Aboitiz family and Bank of the Philippine Islands of the Ayala family. Foreign investment bank Morgan Stanley was also mentioned.

Affidavits of informants

Lacson said his two witnesses had executed affidavits and were ready to face the Senate inquiry into his accusations.

"They are willing to present themselves because that is one of the conditions that we talked about," Lacson said.

He said his main informant approached him about two months ago and was "determined to really go to the bottom of these corrupt activities" happening on the 8th floor of the LTA Building on 118 Perea Street in Legazpi Village, Makati, which serves as the office of the First Gentleman.

"(The informant) apparently did not like anymore what was happening there," Lacson said in explaining why his informant came to him about his exposé against Arroyo.

In his privileged speech, Lacson described Arroyo's office as "a money machine where incredible deals are cooked and sinister schemes plotted."

The informant had told Lacson that the accusations hurled against him were all fabricated in the office of Arroyo, the senator said.

The senator said he was "puzzled" that the First Gentleman had not responded directly to his accusations.

Lacson said he heard that Arroyo, through his spokesperson, had denied knowing Victoria Toh. But the senator said the picture that came out in the INQUIRER yesterday showing Arroyo and Toh together showed otherwise.

"Let the photo speak for itself if he knows her or not," Lacson told reporters.

Loren paves way for Senate probe of Mike

By Michael Lim Ubac

SENATE Majority Leader Loren Legarda announced last night that she would call a meeting at 3 p.m. today to determine the second committee that would jointly conduct the probe on the exposé of Sen. Panfilo Lacson regarding President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband.

With the determination of the second committee, the Senate would be able to open the inquiry, which, according to sources in the chamber, Legarda had been stalling so as not to antagonize the minority bloc.

Sen. Joker Arroyo told the INQUIRER earlier yesterday that the Senate could not open an inquiry "until she [Legarda] makes a decision as to the secondary committee."

"Once the principal and secondary committees are formed, we can proceed already," the administration senator said. "Until [then], we don't have the authority."

Arroyo said the "authority" to choose the secondary committee was given to Legarda "by the plenary"—a position concurred in even by Senate President Franklin Drilon.

First Gentleman willing to face probe

From page A1

rent allegations would also not be proven," Bunye said.

In a privileged speech on Monday, Lacson said Arroyo laundered the money through the bank accounts of Jose Pidal and three others people, including his personal secretary, Victoria Toh. Lacson said that Jose Pidal was none other than the First Gentleman as their signatures bore strong resemblance.

Arroyo has written the authorities for a definitive signature analysis of Jose Pidal to debunk the claim of Lacson that the Pidal account actually belonged to Arroyo.

Lawyers for both the Toh family and Pidal are prepared to thoroughly refute Lacson's claims that they are dummies of Arroyo, according to Patricia Bunye, spokesperson of the First Gentleman.

Not same person

In letters to Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane and National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco, Arroyo's counsel Jose Tenefrancia of the Villaraza and Angangco Offices called both officials to conduct an analysis of the signatures of the First Gentleman and Jose Pidal.

In a statement, Tenefrancia expressed confidence that authorities would confirm that Arroyo and Pidal were not one and the same person.

He noted that the senator had made this claim without any backing at all from any independent authority, as he termed this a "cheap political stunt without a single leg of authenticity to stand on."

"It is telling that Senator Lacson expects us to take his word as gospel truth on the basis of a digitally manipulated slide show. We have called on these expert third parties to thwart his attempt to mislead the people," Tenefrancia said.

He said legitimate persons were indeed the holders of the accounts alluded to by Lacson in his privileged speech.

A lawyer for the Toh family said the Tohs were preparing their own case against Lacson.

Gelacio Mamaril, counsel for the Toh family, said he was confirming their beneficial ownership of the bank accounts mentioned by Lacson.

Mamaril said his clients Kelvin Tan, Thomas Toh Jr. and Victoria Toh strongly denied Lacson's charge that they were dummies of Arroyo.

Mamaril said his clients would react strongly against a move by Lacson to press for the freezing of their accounts by the Anti-Money Laundering Council.

He said Lacson gave numerous falsehoods in his privileged speech about his clients in his bid to paint them as dummies of the First Gentleman.

Mamaril said the Toh family was capable of explaining the entire circumstances surrounding the bank accounts. Contrary to Lacson's claim that they are failed small-time businessmen, the Tohs have long been engaged in trading and other profitable legitimate businesses, the lawyer said.

Mamaril said Victoria Toh had served as chief finance officer of LTA Inc., one of the Arroyo family's corporations. He said Ms Toh, as comptroller for her own family, had thus used her office's address in LTA as the common mailing address for their accounts.

Special relationship

Mamaril said that Ms Toh, who is on vacation abroad for over a month, is deeply disturbed by Lacson's alluding to her as having a special relationship with the First Gentleman.

One of the people who Lacson said frequented Arroyo's office in the LTA Building on 118 Perea Street, Lagazpi Village, Makati, denied the senator's allegation.

"I am not a frequent visitor at the LTA building, as falsely claimed by Lacson," Ernest Villareal, former chair of the Public Estates Authority, said in a statement.

"I hardly go there. If the implication is that I go there to bring money, it is a blatant lie and I categorically and strongly deny it," Villareal said.

He said Lacson's charges were "politically motivated aimed at placing him in the media limelight to promote his feebly supported and largely ridiculed candidacy for the presidency."

Villareal resigned as PEA chair last year amid allegations that he and other PEA executives approved the overpricing of the construction of the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard in the reclaimed area of the Manila Bay.

Villareal, other former PEA officials and the contractor of the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard are facing a P530-million graft case filed by the Council on Philippine Affairs and other civil society groups.

Copa chair Pastor "Boy" Saycon said his group was "evaluating" the evidence presented by Lacson and its link it to the graft case against Villareal et al before the Office of the Ombudsman. He said the Office of the Ombudsman had downgraded the plunder case to graft and corruption.

P450-million deposit

Based on the information Copa had gathered, Saycon said Villareal made a P450 million deposit to a Union Bank branch on Perea Street, the same bank branch which Lacson said was where a check issued by former Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez to Arroyo ended up.

The P450 million, Saycon said, was given to Villareal by the JD Legaspi Construction, which bagged the contract for the controversial 2.3-km portion of the boulevard, which runs parallel to Roxas Boulevard.

"We are investigating on our own but this strengthens our case. We are looking at the same evidence but Ping only revealed it first," Saycon said.

Saycon said this should not be construed as support for Lacson, who has signified his intention to run for president in 2004.

Mary "Rosebud" Ong admitted she had gone to the office of Arroyo before former anti-narcotics agent John Campos was gunned down last December.

But contrary to Lacson's insinuation, Ong said she made the visit only to seek financial assistance for her ailing father.

The visit, she told reporters, was not meant to hatch any plot to kill Campos as Lacson seemed to have suggested in his privileged speech.

"I don't have a steady correspondence with the First Gentleman," she said. "I don't even call him. He's just an ordinary person to me."

Ong said she went to Arroyo's office at LTA Building in Makati on Nov. 28, 2002 to seek an P18,000 donation from the President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Foundation for her father's check-up.

Her father was then suffering from cancer.

Ong said the First Gentleman shelled out the money but it was too late for her father's chemotherapy. She said no other assistance came afterward.

"If the help arrived much earlier, I could have saved my dad," she said before she broke down in tears. Her father, Ong Buan, died of liver cancer three weeks ago. He was 82.

Ong said the senator's claim was part of a "grand plan" to muddle the release of the Senate report on Lacson's alleged involvement in high crimes.

"If he really has evidence against Mr. Arroyo," she said, "then go ahead and sue him."

With a report from AFP

Son of Huk leader Ninoy's first scholar

From page A1

better if ever he saw me again," he recalled.

A year before the 1953 election pitting incumbent President Elpidio Quirino against Magsaysay, then the defense secretary, the younger Taruc was arrested in Pampanga while on board a car that Quirino allowed him to use for a trip back home. He had come to Malacañang to relay the terms his father wanted for peace negotiations.

After more than a year of detention in Camp Olivas, then the headquarters of the Philippine Constabulary in Luzon, the younger Taruc moved to Caloocan. That was where Aquino found him.

"I did not even know him. He just appeared there on the door and introduced himself. He spoke in Kapampangan and explained his mission from Magsaysay. Readily I trusted him," Taruc recalled.

Famous meeting

The next day, Ninoy picked him up, and gave him a green-striped shirt and a cap to wear. Together, they passed by the house of Ninoy's brother Paul, to change cars.

In Angeles, Pampanga, a guide and a jeepney waited to take them to Hacienda Ramona in the uplands of Barangay Mancatian in Porac town where Ka Luis, from a Huk base somewhere in Mt. Pinatubo, arranged what would became a celebrated meeting. A reporter and a photographer also joined them.

Because he brought the supremo's son with him as an act of goodwill, Aquino immediately earned Ka Luis' trust, Taruc said.

"Lumuwag ang loob ng tatay ko na makipag-usap kay Ninoy (My father felt at ease, felt he could talk to Ninoy)," the doctor recalled.

The surprise reunion of father and son was tearful but brief as the supremo buckled down to work.

Aquino conveyed Magsaysay's message: Unity, an appeal to put an end to the armed struggle, the promise of pardon and clean government, an end to the abuses of the military and land to farmers and rebels.

Taruc said his father by then had decided to shift the struggle for social justice through parliamentary means. By this time, too, Ka Luis was being hunted down by the Lava-Alejandrino faction that was pursuing a continuous armed revolutionary struggle, he said.

"There was one thing that my father clarified with Ninoy. He agreed to go down but he was not surrendering to the government. He was set for a peaceful negotiation," Taruc explained. They parted with Aquino assuring him that this condition would be met.

Just before Aquino left, he asked Ka Luis: "What other things can I do for you?"

Ka Luis shot back: "If you could help Romy get an education, I would consider that a big help. I'll be indebted to you."

Fake diploma

(Returning to Manila, Aquino's convoy narrowly escaped an ambush by an Army major belonging to a faction that disagreed with Magsaysay's peace attempts.)

ONLY son of Luis Taruc, Dr. Romeo Taruc, has fond, grateful memories of the fallen hero, Ninoy Aquino. INFOMAX

Taruc, orphaned at two when his mother died, had completed only fifth grade. From when he was 14 years old and until he was 17, Taruc was in the mountains of Zambales and the Sierra Madre with his father.

"He tried to secure me that way (through education) from the enemies," Taruc recalled.

Exactly a day after the meeting in Hacienda Ramona, Aquino had already put the young Taruc back in school.

The resourceful Aquino tried to get around the problem of Taruc not having a high school diploma. Tagging the teener along with him, Ninoy made the round of stores in Manila's Recto Avenue that sold fake diplomas.

"I'll buy you a diploma so you can enrol in college," Taruc recalled Aquino telling him.

At the Bohol Colleges in Manila, the school owner declined to accept Taruc even if he had what seemed to be a genuine diploma.

"He was worried that the government would get back at him because I was a son of a rebel," he said.

Aquino, he added, went to Executive Secretary Ruben Manahan and told him of Taruc's problem. Manahan advice: Get Taruc to take the validating exams for dependents of war veterans.

The battery of tests, two hours long each and taken over nine days, showed Taruc was ready for college.

Aquino also tapped his family network to make life easier for his ward.

Josephine, the sister of Corazon Cojuangco Aquino, was married to Nicanor Reyes, the president of FEU, where Taruc ended up studying medicine.

Every time the P70 monthly stipend came, Taruc recalled, Aquino's short handwritten letters always left one piece of advice: "*Manigaral kang masalese* (Study well)."

Taruc did, got high grades and graduated at the top of his class in 1961. It was Aquino, he said, who came for his graduation rites. Ka Luis was still in jail and would be released only in 1968, or a year after Ninoy was elected the youngest senator in the country's history.

(Ka Luis later said he was spared physical maltreatment because every time the jail guards tried to hurt him, he would mention Aquino's name.)

Company physician

Aquino did not give the new doctor time to specialize. He made Taruc the company physician in Hacienda Luisita where Aquino, by then Tarlac governor, served as the farm manager.

Together, Taruc recalled, they would visit two villages daily. While Taruc treated the sick, Aquino conversed with the farmers and their families. Taruc did this job for six years.

In his gubernatorial campaigns, Taruc said Aquino always took him along, introducing him as the "first scholar ni Ninoy."

"Then he would reiterate his commitment to continue contributing his *sueldo* (salary) to the Ninoy Scholarship Foundation. I don't know exactly how many poor kids he sent to school that way but I'm sure there were many," Taruc said.

"His leadership was superb. He was loved by the people. He emitted this charisma I have never seen in my life," he added.

On those times when Ninoy slowed down and rested in Taruc's quarters, he told the doctor on several occasions of a dream he wanted to reach: "*Ustung aku ing meging presidente, akit mu ing tutung panyulung na ning Pilipinas* (When I become President, you'll see genuine progress in the Philippines)."

Taruc, now 67, and a director of the Land Bank of the Philippines, said he moved to Angeles City after nationalist leaders like Mayor Rafael del Rosario asked Aquino to allow the supremo's only son to practice in the town to help defuse the influence of the Huks' Sumulong faction.

Drawn later into politics, Taruc, who was being groomed as councilor, spoke of Aquino during rallies of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos' Kilusang Bagong Lipunan party. He said Pampanga governor and Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza, a staunch Marcos ally, would cringe at his boldness.

Aquino and Taruc never saw each other again after the opposition leader was exiled in the United States.

Twenty years after the ex-senator's death, Taruc holds dear not only Aquino's personal act of kindness to him.

"He's still significant up to now. Ninoy showed us the meaning of heroism, of making sacrifices for motherland, for democracy and for our poor brethren. He trusted us Filipinos and gave his life for the cause of freedom from the dictatorship," Taruc said.

Lacson exposé peddled …

From page A1

money continued to flow into the supposed bank accounts of Arroyo as of July 30, 2003 was new information.

"I did not have that," said Pimentel. "I did not notice that in the documents that were shown to me."

He stressed that as a lawyer, he knew that corroborative evidence was indispensable in establishing the veracity of any allegation.

He also pointed out that the documents shown to him were mere photocopies, while the "witness, I think, can be bought and can be easily threatened."

"E kung umatras 'yon, anong hawak natin? (If the witness recanted, we'll be left with nothing.) That's what I told those people," said the senator.

He refused to theorize on the motive of the group, saying, "I really don't know. They just came over, asking me to help them … to assess the situation, and talk about that in the Senate."

Asked to describe the witness, Pimentel said: "He's a private person who works with Mike Arroyo at the LTA building."

He said the witness was allegedly the one carrying the money from the LTA building to the bank, which is right across Perea Street in Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Freeze accounts

But congressmen allied with Lacson, a declared presidential hopeful in 2004, called for the freezing of the bank accounts, pending a probe on whether these are depositories of laundered money.

Minority Leader Carlos Padilla (LDP, Nuevá Ecija) and Rep. Gilbert Remulla (LDP, Cavite) said that such a freeze would ensure that the funds are not moved or transferred.

In a statement, Remulla said it was incumbent upon the Anti-Money Laundering Council to freeze the bank deposits "because even the initial presentation of evidence linking the First Gentleman to money laundering activities is too damning to be ignored."

Remulla said that bank officials involved had a lot of explaining to do as these officials who are "privy (to) the unusual transactions of people at the LTA building did not report this to the AMLC."

Padilla noted without going into details that Lacson's informants regarding Arroyo's alleged money-laundering activities provided documents to support the allegations.

But administration lawmakers said that Lacson's exposé, "while long in theatrics, was short on actual criminal acts for which the First Gentleman could be held accountable."

Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City) said: "Ping's attacks are better litigated in courts of law, where the accused can defend himself, confront evidence, cross-examine witnesses and scrutinize documents, and not before the Senate."

Administration Rep. Prospero Pichay (Lakas, Surigao del Sur) said that Lacson's allegations didn't carry any weight because the senator failed to prove that Arroyo dipped his hands into public coffers.

"No public funds were involved and there is no case of bribery," Pichay said.

"If one can't back his tirades with hard evidence, it's clearly an abuse of privilege," Nograles said.

Nograles and Pichay issued a joint statement with Reps. Eduardo Veloso (NPC-Lakas, Leyte) and Wilfrido Villarama (Independent, Bulacan) defending the First Gentleman.

Ombudsman split

Lacson's accusation has split the Office of the Ombudsman, with some officials wanting an immediate investigation, while others said they were wary about Lacson's political motives.

In a telephone interview, Overall Deputy Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio Jr.—an appointee of ousted President Estrada—said he would immediately investigate Lacson's charges as it affects the integrity of President Macapagal- Arroyo herself.

"I think I have to send somebody to sit down with Mr. Lacson because this is something that does not happen every day. It cannot be avoided that people would conclude that the beneficiary here is the President," he said.

"In the event that after our investigation it turns out that this case involves money laundering and no government officials are involved, then this should be turned over to the Central Bank's Anti-Money Laundering Council," he said.

But in a separate interview, Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said they should first monitor the developments in the Senate and see what evidence Lacson can produce.

"This is a politically charged atmosphere, we should be careful lest we be used for political ends," he said.

In his privilege speech, Lacson claimed that Arroyo maintained an account at the Union Bank's Perea branch in Makati in the name of Jose Pidal, containing P36.6 million.

Lacson also said that there were other accounts believed to be held by dummies, namely, Arroyo's secretary Victoria Toh, P19.3 million; Thomas Toh, P7.5 million; Kelvin Tan, P21.1 million; and the Lualhati Foundation, P48.2 million.

The senator also said that Jose Pidal has another account with the Bank of Philippine Islands.

No direct link to GMA

In the Senate, Pimentel told reporters that the group came up with a second witness, who was allegedly closer to Arroyo, to convince him to make the exposé.

"But the additional witness did not want to come out. He is supposed to be in the know of these transactions."

Asked if he and Lacson were talking about the same source, Pimentel said: "I haven't talked to him."

He also refused to comment whether Lacson had preferred the same evidence which had been earlier shown to him.

"I will not talk about that because I don't want to place Mr. Lacson on the spot, and appear that I'm defending the other side. It's up to you to analyze."

He said that he made this admission to "explain to you *bakit di ko pinutok ang dapat ipaputok* (why I did not set off what should have been set off)."

Pimentel also stressed that at this point, the exposé of Lacson failed to directly link the President to the First Gentleman's alleged illegal activities.

"We need evidence to link her to what Mike is doing," said Pimentel, "so we need to investigate this."

But Pimentel later admitted that some of the documents cited by Lacson were the same.

"Very likely we have the same informant. Maybe I am just extra careful compared with Senator Lacson because I'm a lawyer."

Administration Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. said that Pimentel had told him the same thing the other night.

"But since the informant is just a single person, and he did not know the background, the good senator was practicing his prudence not to accept the exposé," Magsaysay told reporters. *With reports from Christine O. Avendano and Armand Nocum*

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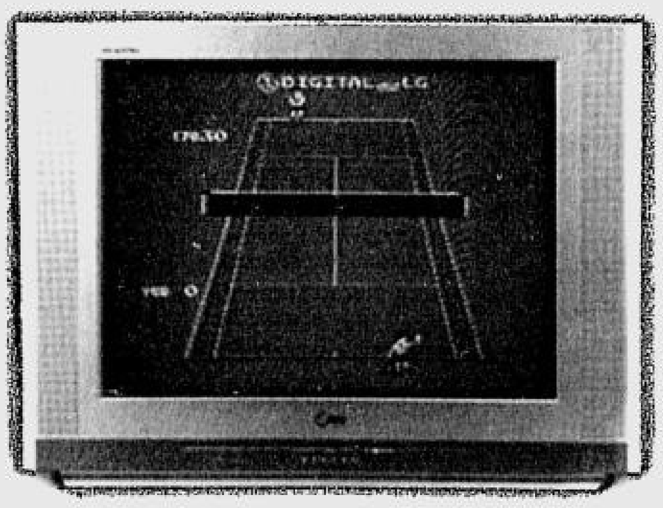

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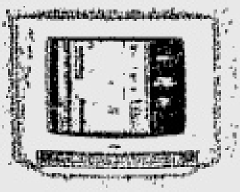

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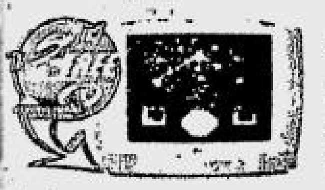

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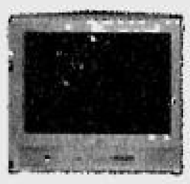

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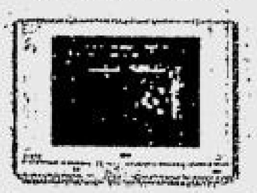

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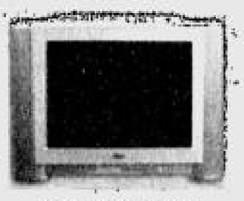

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2 PDI readers extend hand to mother of 5

By Tarra Quismundo

IT HAS been nearly a month since Rosemary Antonio went to the Manila City Hall with her 10-year-old son Jomari.

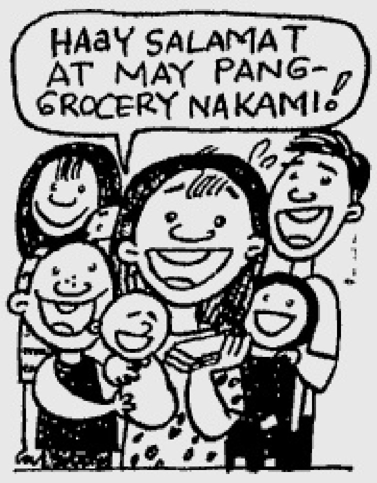
That day, when President Macapagal Arroyo delivered her State of the Nation Address, Antonio said she would have walked from her home in Pandacan in Manila to tell the President her story.

In fact, she has told her story and has caught the attention of INQUIRER readers.

Yesterday, Antonio received P2,100 of cash donations sent by two INQUIRER readers.

"Thank you very much to everyone who helped," Antonio said in Filipino.

"I could finally buy some clothes and grocery for my children," she added.


HAaY SALAMAT AT MAY PANG-GROCERY NAKAMI!

Antonio, who lives with her husband and five children in a house that does not even have walls, said she would also buy a straw mat for them to sleep on.

'Go ahead, check my pay!'

NBI official seeks lifestyle probe on bureau

By Leila B. Salaverria

WHILE Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV may be under pressure to explain some of his assets, a National Bureau of Investigation official wishes he had some assets that needed explaining.

But there simply weren't any said NBI-Interpol Chief Ricardo Diaz.

In an interview, Diaz confidently declared that most of the agents at the bureau would be free of the troubles of Trillanes should a lifestyle check be done on members of the agency.

They would find that most of the agents in the bureau lead modest lives, save probably for those who were born into rich families, the Interpol chief said.

In fact, Diaz suggested that the Presidential Anti Graft Commission immediately conduct lifestyle checks in the bureau.

"A lifestyle check here is welcome anytime. Most of us are not moneyed," he said.

He said that after 15 years in the bureau, he had yet to acquire any millions in the bank, unlike Trillanes who was able to put in P1 million in the Glasgow company, which was later discovered to be engaged in a pyramiding scheme.

The young Navy officer is also a partner in a research firm and has seven vehicles to his name.

Trillanes was among the leaders of the rebel soldiers who staged the July 27 takeover of the Oakwood Premiere in Makati City.

"How was (Trillanes) able to come up with the P1M? I'm a lawyer but I haven't acquired that much money yet," he said.

The 50-year-old Diaz revealed that his salary was between P25,000 to P30,000.

He has a house in Bicol that he built out of a loan from the GSIS and rents an apartment here in Manila. He has seven children, four of whom are in college and two are in high school and elementary. One has graduated.

He added that he had yet to buy a car of his own but is able to use a car provided by the agency because of his position.

He said his counterpart in the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation receives not less than $70,000, or P3.8M a year.

But despite having a salary that may not rival those received by private lawyers or company executives, he gets much satisfaction from his prestigious job which allows him to help other people and the government, as well as to meet interesting and powerful people.

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Ang Sweepstakes Triple Hit draw ay gaganapin isang beses sa isang buwan. Ang mapipiling anim na numero at corresponding letter code ng multi-digit gem ang mag-isang mananalo ng 2million jackpot! Marami pang consolation prizes na pwedeng mapanalunan. Meron ding ambos prize dito.

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#2 Saya...

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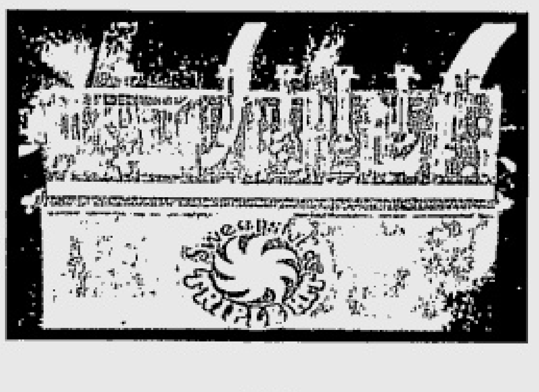

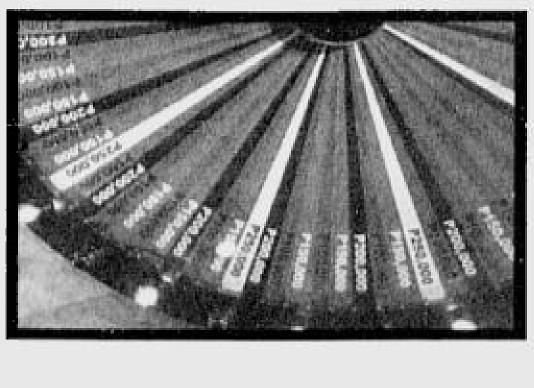

PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE
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Be careful in Manila

As WPD notes 5 'isolated' shootings since July

By Leila B. Salaverria

FIVE people have been shot—three of them fatally—in what the Western Police District has described as "isolated" incidents in Manila in the past two months.

"They are just isolated incidents," stressed WPD spokesperson Chief Insp. Gerry Agunod, who was reacting to reporters' questions on the spate of shootings in the city.

Agunod said the rash of shootings, four of which were ambuscades, were not indicative of rising criminality in the city.

He was also quick to assure the public that the police were investigating the incidents and were doing their best to catch the suspects.

The shootings were touched off by the attempted killing of Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association chief Go Teng Kok on July 1.

Go was hit twice in the face during the incident outside the Rizal Memorial Complex.

Police have since filed frustrated murder charges against two suspects affiliated with the Alex Boncayao Brigade.

On July 25, three men ambushed Customs collector Felipe Bartolome at the Anda Circle in Intramuros.

Bartolome survived but his driver, Erwin Melmida, was slain and two of his bodyguards were wounded.

Nineteen days later, Caloocan City Hall Barangay Bureau secretary Cecilia Ramos was killed by a gunman while she was waiting for a cab in Tondo.

After two days, on Aug. 15, lawyer Franklin Tamargo was shot dead along Nueva Street in Escolta, Binondo. His 8-year-old daughter was hurt in the attack.

Finally, on Sunday, Aug. 17, Barangay 269 chairperson Minda Pimentel was shot dead by a lone gunman who walked up to her as she was cooking dinner beside the barangay hall in Binondo.

A vendor was wounded in the incident.

In an effort to downplay the series of shootings, Agunod said the shootings were not related.

He then explained that "It just so happened that the targets of the ambush were in Manila when the gunmen running after them struck."

Police laxity blamed for spate of violence

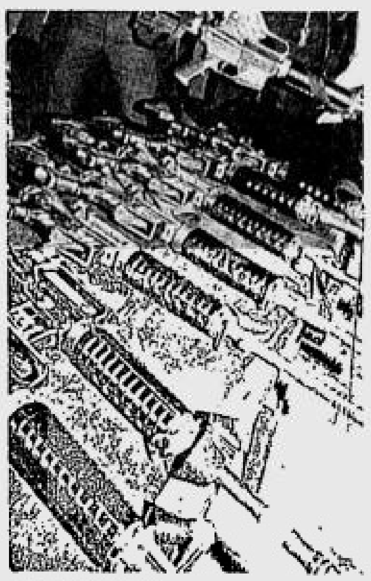
AMBUSCADES left and right? Blame negligent lawmen.

"The rash of ambush deaths is a sign of a growing laxity in the drive to curb the proliferation of unlicensed firearms," National Capital Regional Police Office chief Reynaldo Velasco said yesterday.

This prompted Velasco to order the five district directors in Metro Manila to intensify the crackdown on loose firearms by strictly enforcing "Oplan Bakal" and conducting random checkpoints.

"The Metro Manila police may be undermanned but that should not be a reason for them to provide sloppy work," the NCRPO chief said.

Tina Santos



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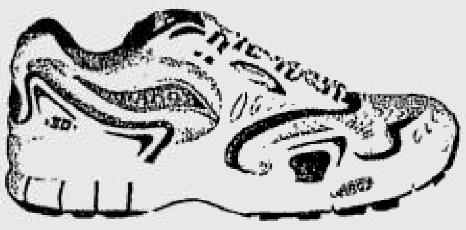

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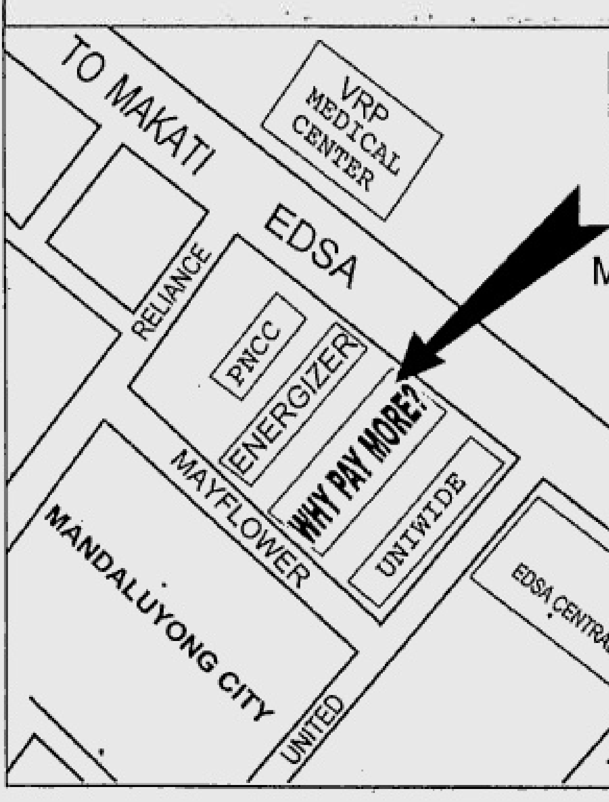

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Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

Water officials turn to Wawa to head off crisis

By Luige del Puerto

WATER concessionaire Manila Water Company Inc. and the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System are set to reactivate the Wawa River Dam to avert a looming water crisis that is expected to hit Metro Manila in 2007.

The regulatory body and the water firm recently signed an agreement to secure $309,000 in loan from the Asian Development Bank.

The money will be used for a feasibility study on the development of the dam, MWSS Administrator Orlando Hondrade yesterday announced in a press conference in Rodriguez, Rizal.

The Wawa dam, which has a potential water supply of 50 million liters per day (mld), was constructed in 1908.

But its development was cut short when the Angat Dam was opened in 1924.

In the 1950s, Wawa stopped supplying water to Metro Manila.

According to estimates, between one to two million households in Metro Manila would not have running water should the Wawa Dam and two other water projects fail to take off.

Manila Water president Antonio Aquino said the Angat Dam, which produces 4,000 mld, could no longer accommodate service expansions.

But Angat would continue to have enough water for the households it currently supplies, Aquino said.

Manila Water supplies 1,150 mld to the towns of Rodriguez and San Mateo in Rizal, Pateros and Taguig, San Juan, Marikina, Pasig, Mandaluyong, Makati and portions of Quezon City.

Hondrade said the MWSS would construct a treatment facility in Barangay San Rafael.

Hondrade said a study showed that water from the river is "treatable."

Hondrade also promised to help the Rodriguez government in developing eco-tourism projects in the town.

But the fate of 100 families who live along the riverbank is unclear.

Their shanties would have to be demolished to make way for the construction of a new pipe from the dam to the treatment facility.

Mayor Pedro Cuerpo has promised to relocate the families "somewhere near."

He also promised that they would be given first crack at jobs that will come with the construction of the pipeline and treatment facility.

But he might have a hard time convincing the residents, most of whom are informal dwellers.

While some are not ready to give up their shelters on the riverbank, others have already resigned to the idea of resettling.

Elena Orbista, who settled on the edge of Wawa River in 1988, said that as along as the relocation site is not too far, she would agree to move.

"What choice do we have?" she said.

As 'Lakay' lashes Metro Manila, commerce thrives

By Edson Tandoc Jr. and Margaux Ortiz

LUCKLESS children brave "Lakay's" fury as they walk to school.

ERIK ARAZAS

FLOODWATER yesterday swept parts of Metro Manila after non-stop rains pummeled the metropolis for the second straight day.

But while most people yesterday stayed indoors, a number of enterprising residents went out and hit paydirt because of the downpour.

As the rains continued to pour, about 50 men were out in the middle of J.P Rizal Avenue Extension near the corner of R. Papa in Manila, laughing, joking around and racing against each other to help push stalled cars for a fee.

The men would agree to help push the cars for P10 each.

As expected, the rains took its toll on the cities of Caloocan, Malabon and Valenzuela. There, the young children also took advantage of the flooding by putting together wooden or concrete blocks on the streets for people who want to keep dry.

Each one who passes through the makeshift bridges must pay P2 to the children.

At 1 p.m., the water level at the R. Papa station of the Light Rail Transit stood at about a meter.

Ren-Ren, 13, who was preparing to swim in the street when he talked to the INQUIRER, said the clogged river beside the Chinese Cemetery, which is near the R. Papa–Rizal Avenue juncture, has been causing floodwater to rise in the streets.

He said the river tends to overflow because of too much garbage.

Floodwater in Sawata Kawal Street, also in Caloocan, rose to a meter, rendering it impassable to vehicles, according to the Northern Police District.

Worried parents in Malabon City also went to school to fetch their children, Malabon I Supervisor Mauro Reyes said.

School officials yesterday allowed the students to go home, although most remained in their classes, he added.

Floodwater also caused traffic jams in key streets in Marulas, Valenzuela. City officials told the INQUIRER it was fortunate the rains did not coincide with high tide, else the flood could have been deeper.

MMDA Traffic Operations Center Angelito Vergel de Dios said traffic on Edsa was heavy but "manageable."

According to Metrobase, traffic arm of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), vehicular flow on Edsa was moderate to heavy.

Metrobase also reported that around noon yesterday, MacArthur Highway, Dalandanan, Dimasalang, parts of Blumentritt, Tomas Mapua, Tayuman and Samson Road were in knee-deep water.

Typhoon stalls single dispatch system on Edsa

THEY could not stand yesterday's cold rain.

So for the second day in a row, the Metro Manila Development Authority put on hold the single dispatching system on Edsa.

MMDA officials said the dispatchers hired to monitor the scheme seemed unprepared to the rigors of the job—including working in the cold rain.

MMDA Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios said the single dispatching system, or Organized Edsa Bus Route, was re-implemented at 6 a.m. yesterday, but was put on hold at 2 p.m. because many dispatchers begged off from the job.

"We had to replace them with some of our own men," Vergel de Dios said.

The scheme was suspended on Monday after causing "so much confusion" because of apparent miscommunication between the MMDA, bus operators and drivers.

Angelito Vergel de Dios reiterated that several dispatchers were still needed to make the system work properly.

He said they still need more dispatchers in the terminals and intersecting or merging points to make sure that the buses get their queue cards.

The queue cards are issued to the bus drivers as they are dispatched from their terminals. These cards ensure that the buses do not overtake each other and move systematically in single file on Edsa's yellow lane.

The dispatchers also monitor if more or fewer buses are needed on Edsa depending on the number of passengers at any given time.

Margaux Ortiz

CHR raps 4 CPD cops for torture

By Tina Santos

THE COMMISSION on Human Rights has filed a complaint against four lawmen accused of torturing a construction worker inside the Central Police District headquarters two months ago.

Charges of maltreatment and physical injuries have been filed against SP01 Alan dela Cruz, P03 Christopher Ronquillo, P02s Juanito Felices and Ernie Mariscotes. The four men are assigned to the CPD's Criminal Investigation Unit.

The police officers could not be reached for comment.

According to the complaint victim Paterno Pitulan filed with the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office, the policemen arrested the worker at around 10:30 p.m. on June 21 and took him to CPD Headquarters in Camp Karingal, Sikatuna Village, Quezon City.

Once inside, the suspects blindfolded the victim and took turns hitting Pitulan, 36, of Barangay Sta. Cruz, Antipolo City.

Pitulan claimed the policemen electrocuted him and, at one point, he nearly died of suffocation after one of the suspects covered his head with a plastic bag.

Medical examiners said Pitulan sustained several lacerations and abrasions on different parts of the body.

In a letter to the city prosecutor, CHR lawyer Jaime Hechanova said that the lawmen have submitted their counter-affidavits, where they argued that Pitulan was legally arrested because there was a warrant out for the worker.

But according to Hechanova, CHR NCR director IV, the lawmen failed to answer charges of maltreatment of prisoner and slight physical injuries.

RP goes 'yellow' on Aug. 21

THE EDSA People Power Commission (EPPC) has started commemorating the 20th death anniversary of Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. by holding nationwide activities from Aug. 18 to Aug. 22.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had earlier declared Aug. 22 as a public holiday. The massive funeral march for Aquino in 1983 is credited as the country's first expression of People Power, which culminated in Edsa I in 1986.

In Metro Manila, major thoroughfares such as Edsa will be decked with yellow ribbons for the whole week.

On Aug. 21, the Makati Central Business District will have a nostalgic yellow confetti greeting for former President Corazon Aquino when she arrives for wreath-laying ceremonies at the Ninoy Aquino Monument on Ayala Avenue. President Macapagal and former President Fidel V. Ramos are expected to join her, along with EPPC commissioners, Edsa I stalwarts and business leaders.

From Makati, former President Aquino will join Mayor Lito Atienza for the unveiling of a new Ninoy Aquino monument in Manila at 4 p.m.

METROBRIEFS

Shot at the gate

A VENDOR was shot dead by a security guard at the gate of an exclusive village in Paranaque City the other night. Supt. Ronald Estilles, Parañaque City police chief, said Segundo Arances, 34, of Sitio Bagong Pag-Asa, Barangay Don Bosco, was shot during a heated argument with Romeo Ursos, a security guard of Marimar Village in Barangay Sun Valley. Ursos fled after the incident. Reports said a heated argument ensued after Ursos told Arances to move his pushcart away from the village gate. The suspect faces homicide charges upon his arrest.

Alcuin Papa

He found jail

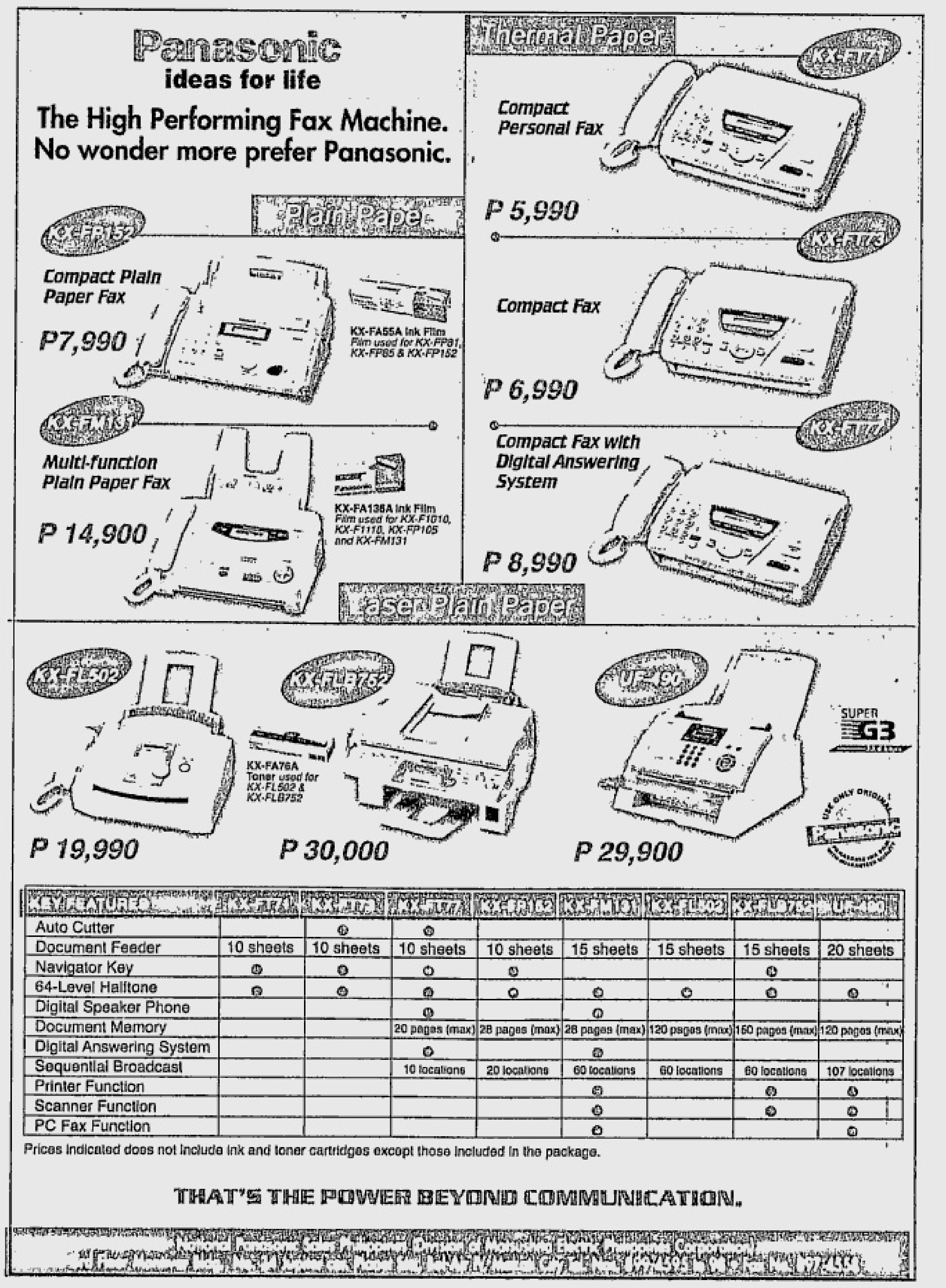
HE WAS looking for a fight, but instead came face to face with jail bars and charges of illegal possession of firearms. Gerardo Soliven, a 38-year-old widower who claimed he was a former policeman, was arrested yesterday for using his gun to intimidate another policeman. Reports said Soliven, who was reportedly drunk, was challenging people along Mindanao Extension in Sampaloc, Manila, around 10 p.m. last Monday. Residents then informed SP02 Rolando Bañez of the District Intelligence and Investigation Division of the Western Police District, about Soliven's antics. Bañez went to the scene and introduced himself. Soliven drew his gun, but Bañez grabbed it and brought Soliven to the WPD headquarters where he is now detained.

Leila Salaverria

In agreement

THE MAYOR and the chairman both seem to have a beef against street basketball. Mandaluyong City Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr. said he supports the plan of Metro Manila Development Authority chair Bayani Fernando to tear down basketball courts on streets and intersections in the metropolis. Abalos said the city has already removed at least four basketball courts constructed on roads and sidewalks. He said the city is looking for lots where the courts could be relocated. But land is very expensive and Mandaluyong is already congested, he said.

Luige del Puerto



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Aug 9, 13 & 20 9pm Gentxt Nights @ DISH Rockwell Power Plant
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Aug 11 Mon 7:30pm FINDING NEMO Premiere @ Onstage Greenbelt
[illegible]

Aug 15 & 31 8pm GLOBE presents the 2003 DMC/Technics World DJ Mixing Championship
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Aug 15 Fri 8pm Gentxt Bounce @ Brix Sports Cafe Ayala Cebu
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Aug 20 Wed 7pm Unplugged @ The Patio The SITE Cagayan de Oro City
[illegible]

Aug 20 & 21 Wed & Thurs 8pm Gentxt @ Kadayawan Rizal Promenade Davao City
[illegible]

Aug 22 & 23 Fri & Sat 7pm AKAFELLAS Live in Concert @ The Forum, The Podium, Ortigas
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Aug 27 Wed 7pm FREESTYLE Fiesta Concert @ The SITE Cagayan de Oro City
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Aug 27 Fri Gentxt University Cheering Competition @ Silliman University, Dumaguete City
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SPORTS TV
Compiled by L. Mangulat

GOLF: US Amateur Open Championship; 12:30 a.m. and 1 a.m.; ESPN - Stay up late for the preview and first round of America's premier amateur golfing event at Oakmont, Pennsylvania.

BASKETBALL: Solar Sports ABA - St. Louis Spirits vs Kentucky Colonels (April 1, 1976) - Take a ride on the time machine as the red, white and blue ball of the ABA bounces on the court with the likes of Connie Hawkins and Dan Issel strutting their wares.

Coke Tigers reach out for crown today

By June Navarro

ADJUSTMENT will be the name of the game for the Alaska Aces while the Coca-Cola Tigers hope to go all the way this time.

The Tigers lost their grip on a second championship against Talk 'N Text recently and vowed to redeem themselves when they go for the clincher in Game 2 of the Samsung-PBA Invitational Championship playoffs tonight at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The Tigers racked up victories in Games 1 and 2 of the All-Filipino Cup only to lose four straight games and the crown to the Phone Pals.

"The past is the past and there's no good if we continue to dwell on it. We'll treat this one as something completely new," said Coca-Cola coach Chot Reyes on the eve of the match set at 7 p.m.

Exploiting the absence of the injured Don Allado, the Tigers took Game 1, 94-81, and left the Aces with the tough task of winning two straight games to end their three-year title drought.

GAME TODAY
(Cuneta Astrodome)
7 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Alaska (Game 2)
Game 1—Coca-Cola d. Alaska, 94-81

Allado hurt his right ankle during the Red Bull-Alaska semifinal knockout game last week, relegating the 6-foot-6 pivotman to the sidelines in the opener of the best-of-three championship series.

"I'm expecting Allado to play and we have to be prepared when he comes around," said Reyes.

"But Allado is just one item for concern. Another factor is the kind of adjustments they will make."

Alaska coach Tim Cone said Allado remains a doubtful starter and his decision to field the Aces' best defender depends on what he shows in practice.

"He's 50-50 or less. If he could prove to us that he's ready, we'll play him," said Cone Sunday.

"In Game 1, we just don't have the same tightness (in defense) that we normally have. We'll try to settle down, get adjusted and see what happens in Game 2."

Cone noted that the Aces fared pretty well in knockout matches as evidenced by their 9-0 sweep of the Invitational qualifyings, the elimination round and through the sudden-death crossover semifinals.

"Those were all knockout games. I don't know how to explain it but this was the first non-knockout game that we had for a long time and we played like it was a non-knockout game," said Cone.

"We did really good in knockout games. We're going to have a couple and we're going to go after them."

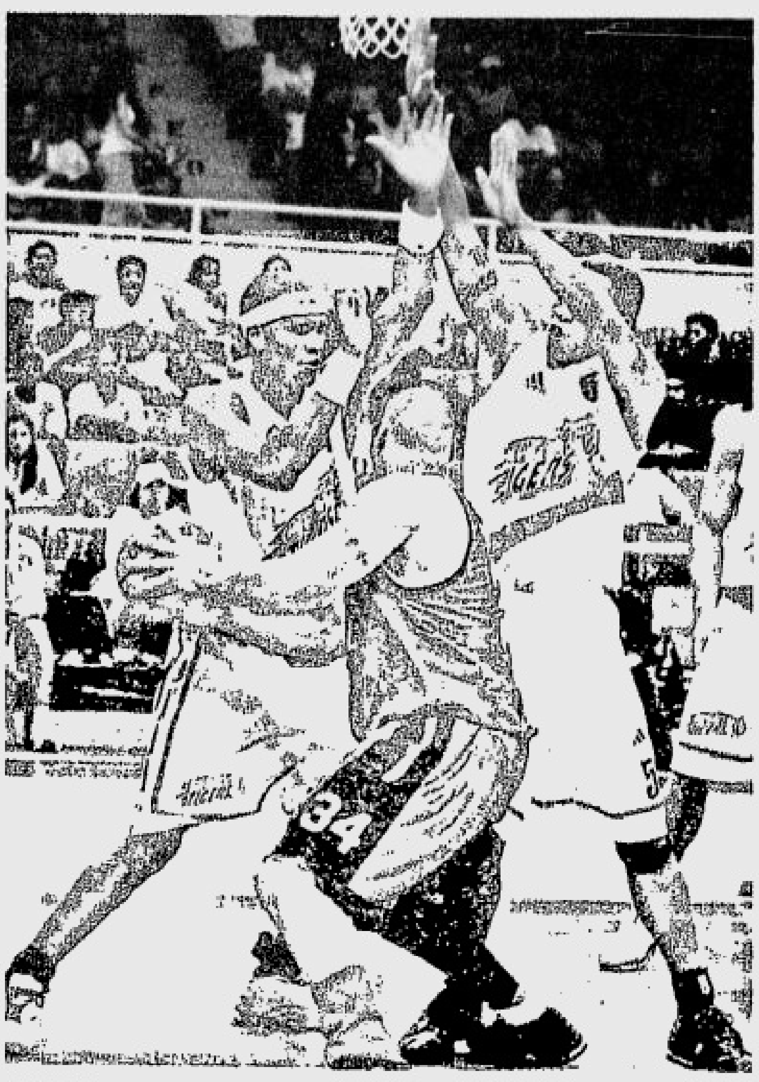
Another thing going for the Aces is the two-day break which favors Allado.

"We have a two-day rest going for us but it also gives time for Allado's injury to heal," said Reyes.

Besides Allado, the Tigers are wary about the versatile backcourt of the Aces and the penchant of Ali Peek to overplay their bigmen inside the paint.

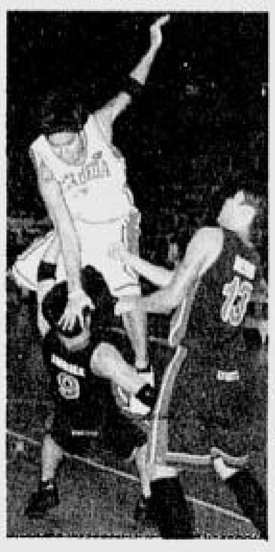
"We're not going to outjump or outrun the Alaska players. I think they're a lot more athletic than we are. With the backcourt of (Mike) Cortez, (John) Arigo and (Brandon) Cablay, they are tremendously athletically gifted," said Reyes.

"They have a super talented backcourt so I challenge my men to keep up and stay in step with them as much as they can."



ALASKA power forward Ali Peek finds the lane blocked by the Coca-Cola duo of Rafi Reavis (left) and Rob Wainwright in Sunday night's Game 1 won by the Tigers.
VAL HANDUMON

WHAT'S INSIDE



■ Cards gun for share of NC lead /A28

■ Laurente stakes crown today /A26

■ Mark still ahead /A26

Decisive first game for RP five

By Marc Anthony Reyes

KUALA LUMPUR—The Philippines could end up winning its Southeast Asian Basketball Association crown right in its very first game late today.

This shaped up after organizers sent the top-seeded Filipinos against a tall Thailand squad in one of two matches opening the four-team tournament.

Host Malaysia takes on Vietnam, which will stage the Southeast Asian Games in December, in the other contest.

With the absence of Indonesia and Singapore, organizers adopted a one round robin format with the team that sweeps its games clinching the right to represent the region in the Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC) in China next month.

Thailand has long taken over from Malaysia the role as RP's toughest rival in the region and officials naturally consider today's encounter as a make-or-break game.

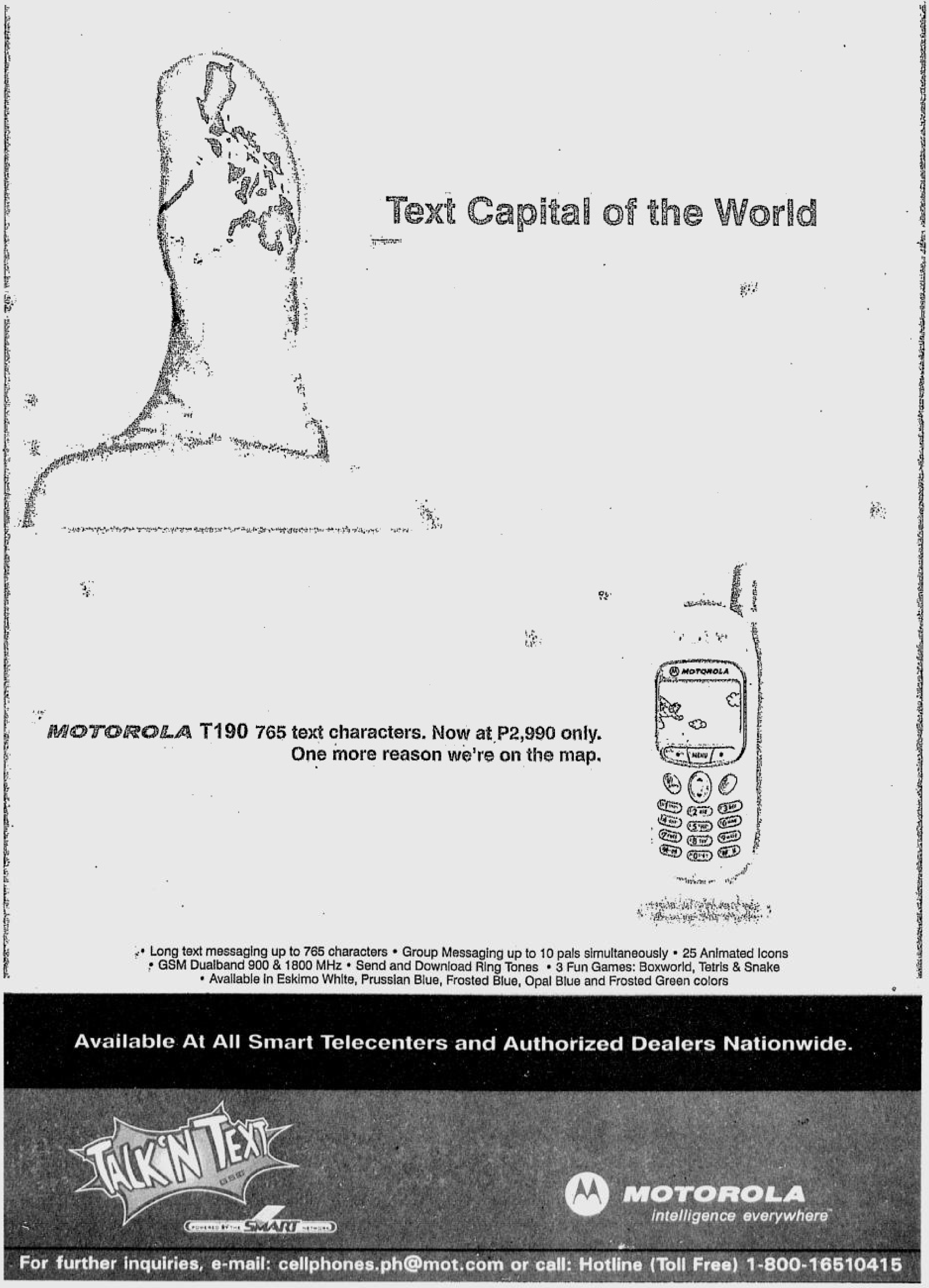
Competing as the Cebuana Lhuillier RP team, the Filipinos will play the Vietnamese Wednesday and the Malaysians Thursday.

"This is basically the toughest teams in the region, which makes it a very competitive tournament because every game is a knockout game," said RP coach Aric del Rosario.

In case of ties, the quotient system will be used.

Fresh from seeing action in the PBA Invitationals, the RP team boasts of tall, efficient slotmen in Ervin Sotto, Ranidel De Ocampo and Jean Marc Pingris.

The other players are Celino Cruz, Richard Melencio, Emmerson Oreta, William Wilson, Gary David, Dennis Madrid, Nelbert Omolon, Bernzon Franco and Ricaredo Calimag.



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SPAIN CHESSFEST

Mark keeps lead

Standings after round 5

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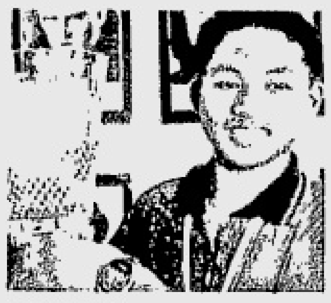

PARAGUA

FILIPINO Mark Paragua beat fellow International Master Jose Luis Vilela of Cuba to share the lead with two others after the fifth round of the 1st International Del - Solsenes chess championship yesterday in Solsona, Spain.

The 10th-seeded Paragua has four wins and one draw for 4.5 points, the same output of GM Arthur Kogan of Israel and IM Yuri Gonzales of Cuba.

Another Filipino, IM Joseph Sanchez, also won his fifth round match at the expense of Yvalin Bruned of Spain to climb into a 12-way tie for fourth. It was the 33-year-old Cebuano's fourth consecutive win after a first-round loss to Paragua.

Sanchez, the Milano Open champion, caught up with top seed super GM Sergei Tiviakov (ELO 2613) of Netherlands, GM Viktor Moskalenko of Ukraine, GM Jordi Magem Badals and eight others.

In the sixth round, Paragua will be handling black against Kogan. *With a report from NM Marlon Bernardino*

Go gets warm welcome in Paris

ATHLETICS president Go Teng Kok was warmly received by fellow delegates when he showed up at the 44th International Amateur Athletics Federation Congress in Paris Monday.

Accompanied by 3As president Shri Suresh Kalmadi of India and secretary-treasurer Maurice Nicholas, Go shrugged off the effect of the nine-hour direct flight from Manila to meet IAAF members at the Bercy Hotel where the IAAF balloting for council members would be held.

Kalmadi and Nicholas went to Paris ahead of Go to campaign for his election to one of the 26 IAAF council seats. The two said Go was "the talk of the town."

"I was speechless when everybody came up to embrace me and wish me well," said Go, who survived an assassination try on July 1.

Laput new RP superfly champ

CEBU CITY—Davao's Ramie Laput hammered out a split-decision victory over tough Alex Egina to win the vacant Philippine superflyweight crown in Saturday night's "Karambola" card at the New Cebu Coliseum.

Laput, fighting out of Davao's 7R Stable, brushed off a point deduction in the 8th round due to an accidental headbutt to gain the nod of two judges, 116-112 and 117-114. The third judge had Egina the winner at 115-112.

Laput improved his record to 24 wins, with 12 knockouts, against three losses as he claimed the crown given up by Roger Galicia, who won the WBC International bantam title last March.

Egina took his second loss in 11 fights.

RP minifly No. 2 Fabio Marfa and No. 5 Elmer Gejon fought to a 10-round draw. *Salven Lagumbay*

Laurente stakes OPBF crown vs Montilla today

ORIENTAL and Pacific Boxing Federation (OPBF) lightweight champion Dennis Laurente defends his crown against Philippine titlist Fernando Montilla in a 12-round showdown headlining the "Boksing Kontra Droga" tonight at the Casino Filipino Amphitheater in Parañaque City.

The 26-year-old Laurente, a southpaw fighting out of the Johnny Elorde Stable and currently ranked No. 8 among the world's lightweights, will be making the second defense of the 135-lb title he won over Japanese Yosuke Otsuka almost two years ago in Japan.

The stylish Laurente parades a 19-1-2 win-loss-draw record highlighted by 11 KOs.

The power-punching Montilla, a perennial sparmate of IBF king Manny Pacquiao, has the tools to unseat Laurente. The Davao-based challenger has a 28-15-2 slate with 19 KOs. He won the RP title last December with a second-round knockout of Ramon Molina.

"This will be an exciting match-up between two certified lightweight bangers," promoter Johnny Elorde said.

Laurente and Montilla both predicted a victory but refused to comment whether it would be by knockout or decision.

"I prepared very hard for this fight," said Laurente in Cebuano.

Laurente, from Baybay, Southern Leyte, said he's in tiptop shape, having gone through almost 100 rounds of sparring against ex-Pan Asian Boxing Association (Paba) lightweight champ and veteran junior welter Al Deliguer and Noel Hammerpan, respectively.

Laurente's brother, newly crowned OPBF superbantam champ Pedirito "Toto" Laurente, is expected to be at ringside to give moral support.

"We are already in OPBF history books as the first brothers to reign as champions at the same time, and I told Dennis not to take Montilla lightly," said the younger Pedirito, whose victory in Saturday's bout in Tokyo, Japan, made him the third Filipino OPBF champion after his brother and unbeaten superfeather Randy "Komong Bato" Suico of Cebu. *Salven L. Lagumbay with additional report from Rey Danseco*

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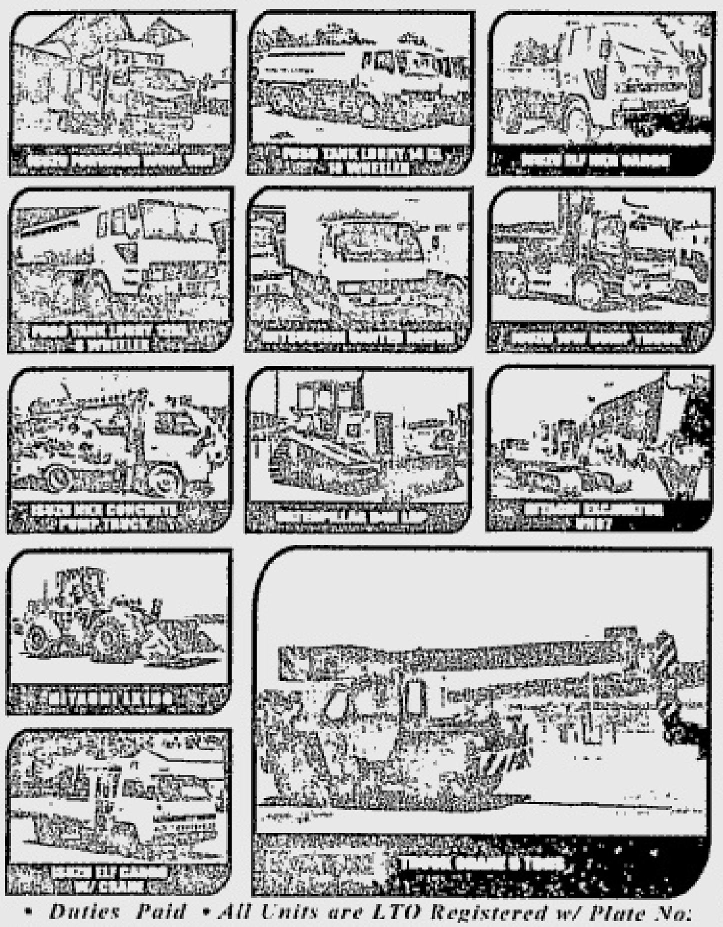

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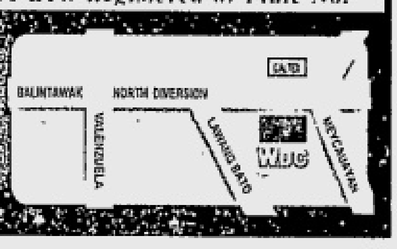

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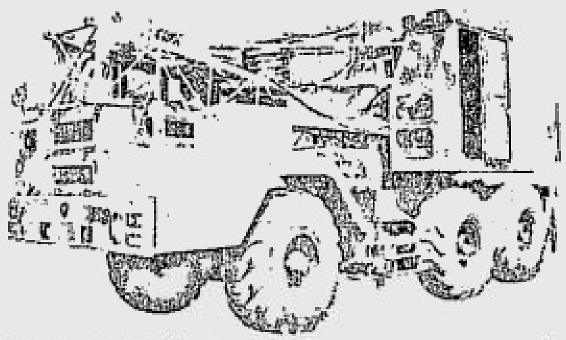

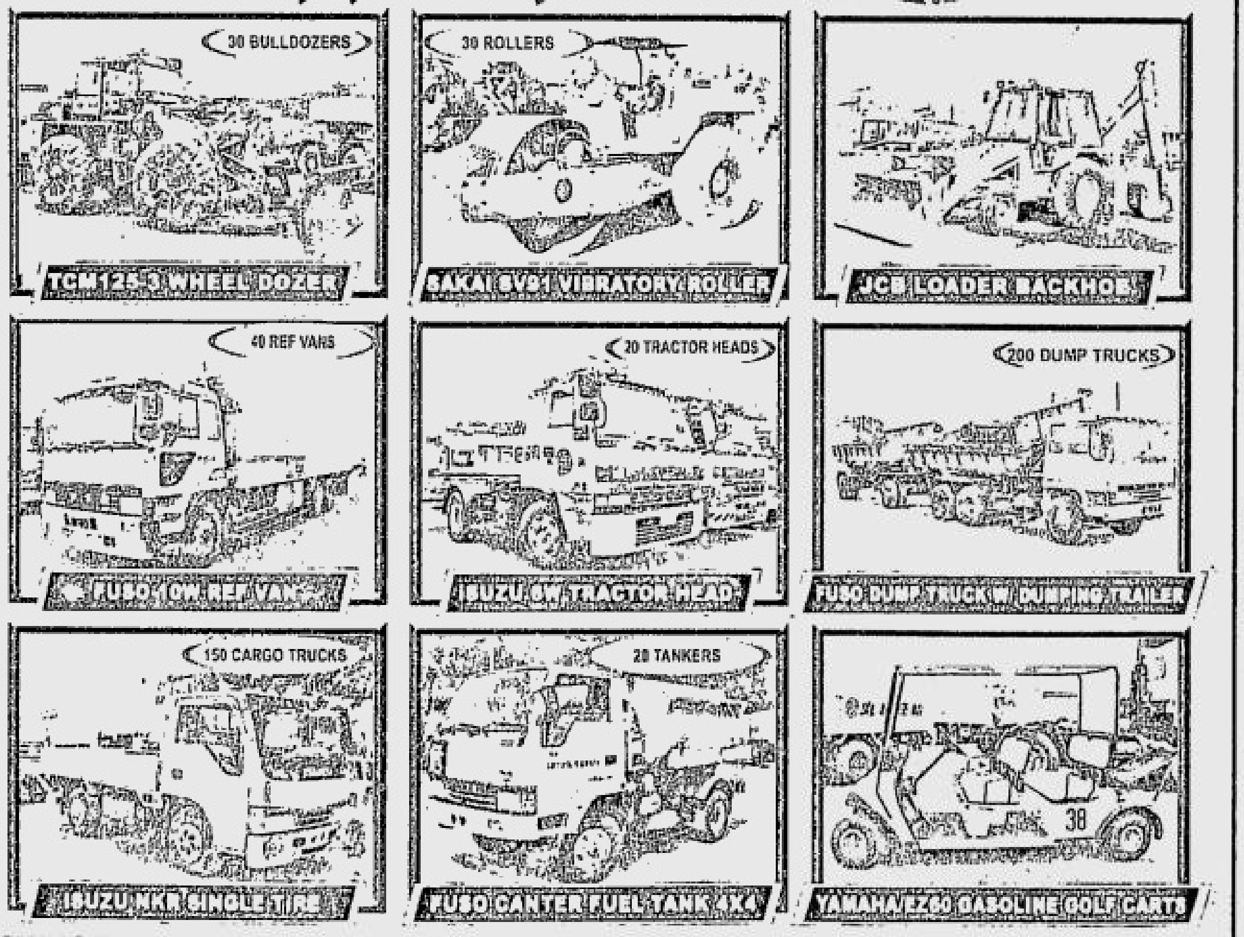

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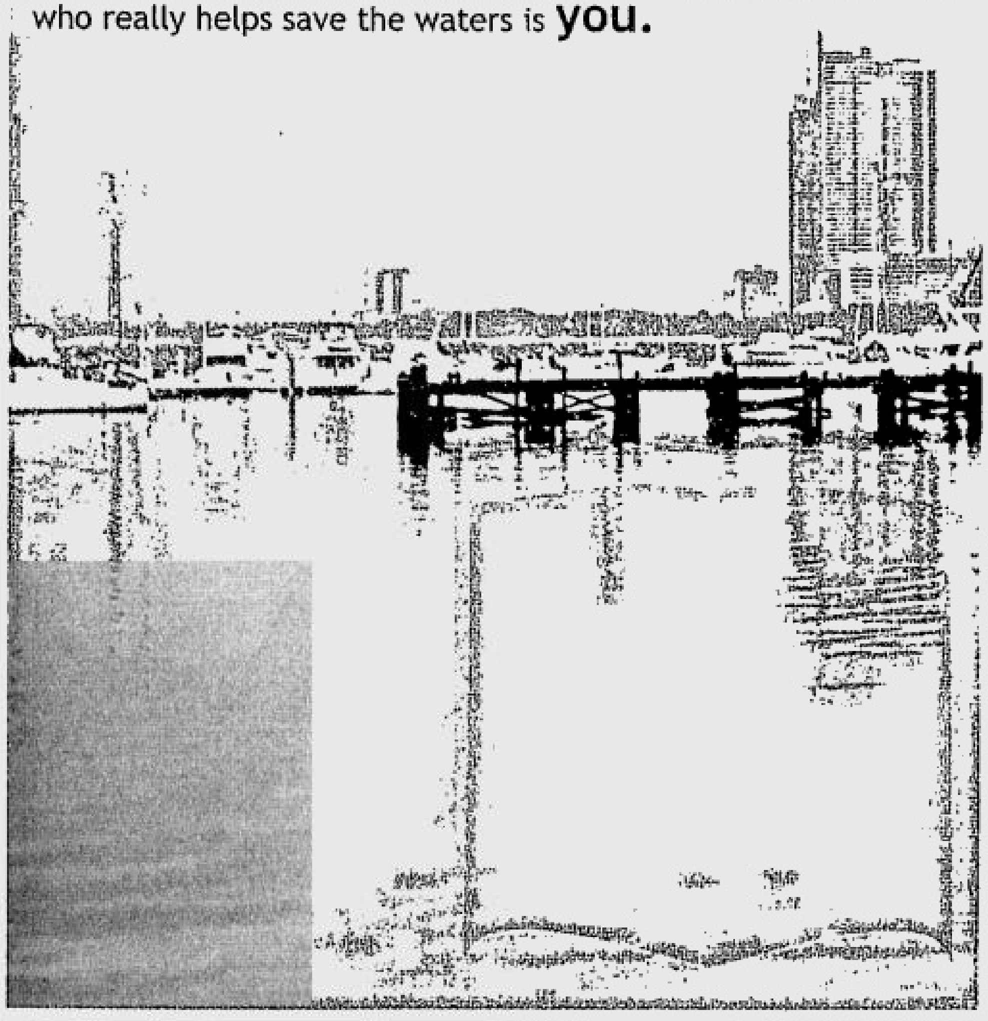

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Luzvimin ladies golf under way

CEBU—Lora Roberto defends the individual crown as she leads the Manila Southwoods bid in the 11th Luzvimin Invitational tournament of the Women's Golf Association of the Philippines starting today at the rain-soggied Cebu Country Club course.

There are 128 players comprising 22 teams from 14 clubs nationwide in the field. They will be disputing the top awards in three team categories based on handicaps.

Roberto, fresh from a long campaign in the United States, will be teaming up with former national champion Carmelette Villaroman and Tracy Locsin in what looms as a potent challenge by Southwoods.

Out to give them a tough fight are Canlubang with Lina de Guzman and Lucy Landicho at the helm and defending Diamond division champion Sta. Elena bannered by Carina Ricamonte.

Also fielding teams are Alabang, Alta Vista, Bacolod, Baguio, Camp Aguinaldo, Club Filipino de Cebu, Del Monte, Forest Hills, Iloilo, Manila Golf and host Cebu Country Club.

Sponsors for the event are the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Philippine Sports Commission, San Miguel, Cocal Cola and Philippine Airlines which is also the official carrier.

Villamor topped the Ruby division last yearwhile Manila Golf is going for a back-to-back feat in the Pearl division. Alabang, the hottest club in the ongoing WGAP Circuit, should give the favored teams a tough time.

Preceding the 7 a.m. tee-off is the hitting of ceremonial balls by WGAP president Gina Tuason, CCC golf director Luisito Ugarte and Rosebud Sala, president of the CCC ladies chapter. Jong Arcano

Cards gun for share of NC lead

GAMES TODAY *(Rizal Coliseum)*
11:30 a.m.—SSC-R vs PCU (jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—Mapua vs JRU (srs/jrs)

MAPUA shoots for a share of the lead today even as defending champion San Sebastian tries to sustain its momentum in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

After stringing up two victories in the second round, the Cardinals hope to keep the streak going against the Jose Rizal Heavy Bombers in their 4 p.m. encounter.

STANDINGS	W	L
Seniors		
Letran	7	3
Mapua	6	3
JRU	6	4
SSC-R	6	4
San Beda	6	4
PCU	3	7
UPHR	3	7
CSB	3	7

Led by Jeffrey Martin, Christian Guevarra, Jeff Gonzales and Raymond Dula, the Cardinals routed the Letran Knights in a fight-marred game exactly a week ago.

Guevarra was later slapped an unsportsmanlike foul for planting an elbow on the cheek of Ronjay Enrile, triggering an uproar from the rest of the Knights before game officials were able to restore order.

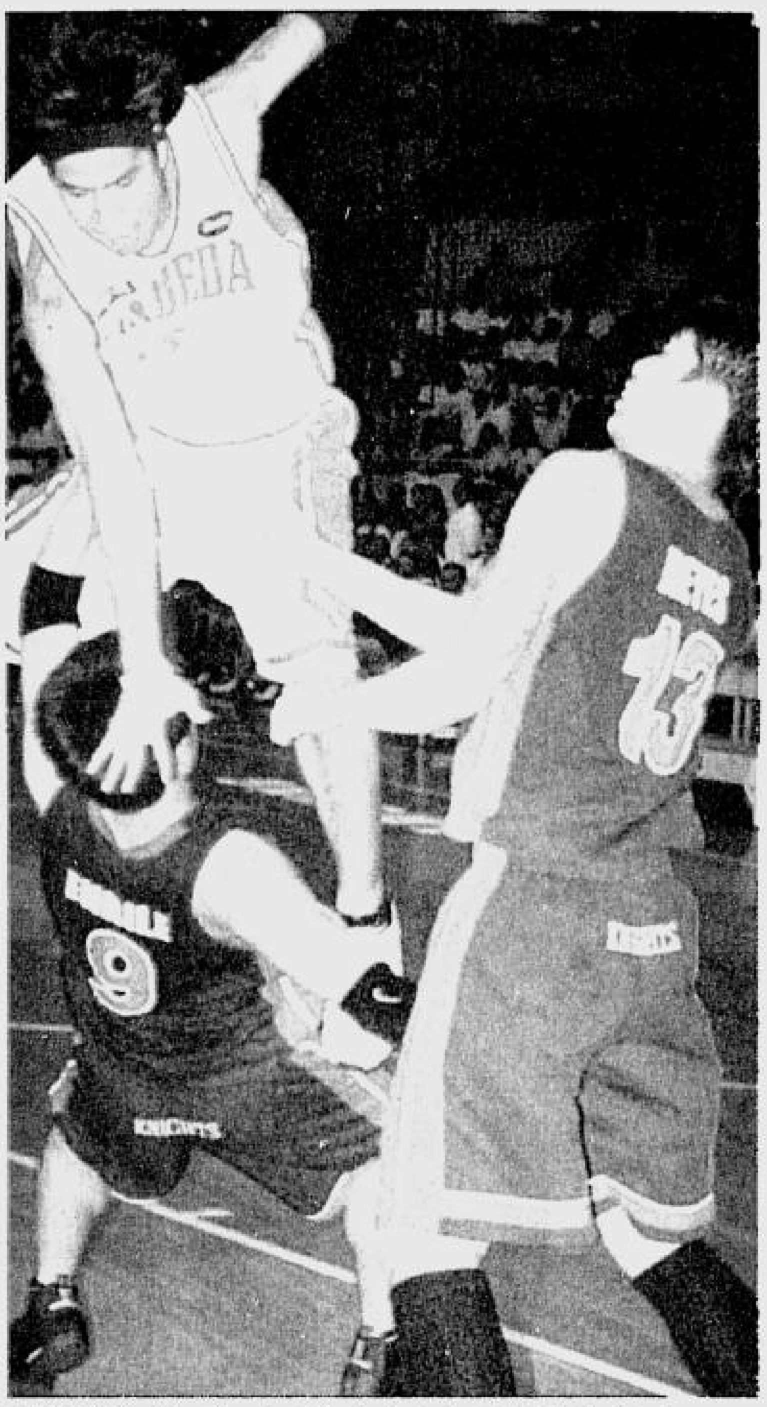
The Cardinals hope to tie the Knights at 7-3 and move two games away from earning at least a playoff for a Final Four slot.

The Stags also attempt to make it three in a row when they clash with the PCU Dolphins in the other senior game.

After hurdling the San Beda Lions and the St. Benilde Blazers, the Stags try to improve their 6-4 record and take third place.

At 3-7, the Dolphins are locked in a three-way tie with the Blazers and the struggling Perpetual Help Altas after dropping all of their games in the second round.

June Navarro



SAN BEDA's Arjun Cordero is fouled by Letran's Ronjay Enrile after making a shot in their game Sunday. The Knights won, 76-65. RUDY ESPERAS

Lakambini race spices up heavy PRCI schedule

SEVEN outstanding three-year-old fillies take centerstage this Sunday at Santa Ana Park as they compete in the 2003 Philracom "Lakambini" Stakes Race, highlight of the Philippine Racing Club's action-packed five-day racing schedule which comes off the wraps at 6 p.m.

PRCI's racing schedule includes two twilight race cards today and tomorrow and three full cards of 13 races each from Friday to Sunday.

Set to do battle in the 1,800-meter Philracom "Lakambini" race, which carries a total pot of P750,000 including P450,000 to the winner, are some of the headliners in this year's three-year-old championship trail, including Triple Crown placers Favorite Girl and Speed Machine, whose best performance so far was a third place finish in the JV Ongpin Cup won by West Bound.

Expectations are high that this year's edition of the "Lakambini" race may well decide the winner of the year's three-year-old filly title.

The Sunday program includes the staging of the Special Invitational Race for Class B jockeys.

Taguig quint whips Pampanga

CEBU CITY—Forward Taguig swept its best-of-three semifinal series with Pampanga to clinch the first final seats, but Ozamiz's Compak Shineway bounced back to beat Cebu's M Lhuillier Kwarta Padala, 76-75, and send their series to the limit in the NBL national championship at the Cebu Coliseum here.

Chris Quimpo sizzled with 18 points and Erwin Sta. Maria added 16 as Taguig unleashed a 15-4 third quarter spurt to turn back the Bulls, 81-70.

Jerry Jaca and Milfred Sampilo scored 15 points each as the Ozamiz cagers pulled out a heart-stopping victory over the Cebuanos to forge a knockout match for the other finals berth.

First Game

TAGUIG 81—Quimpo 18, Sta. Maria 16, Mendoza 11, Roldan 9, Vilar 8, Robillos 7, Macanig 7, Bernardino 2, Nuqui 2, Go-Bon 1, Dais 0

PAMPANGA 70—Alberto 13, Garcia 10, Duyag 8, Tolentino 8, Bansil 8, Manalac 8, Santos 8, Tadeo 7, Coronel 0

Second Game

COMPAK 76—Jaca 15, Sampilo 15, Alvarado 11, Ferraren 10, Guerrero 9, Misola 8, Cabrera 6, Libatog 2, Cabigkis 0, Mejia 0

LHUILLIER 75—De la Rosa 15, Enriquez 12, Manigo 8, Smith 8, Rodriguez 8, Dacia 7, Aying 5, Lumantas 5, Arano 3, Ocanada 2, Caputolan 2, Canoneo 0.

Anasta upset in Subic netfest

OLONGAPO CITY—Unranked Jaime Solon pulled off a 7-5, 1-6, 6-1 upset win over seventh seed Elbert Anasta yesterday to advance into the next round of the Cebuana Lhuillier Tennis Circuit 2 at the Subic Bay Tennis Center here.

Fifth seed Alexander Lazaro and ninth seed Antonio Sagansay also hurdled their first-round matches. Lazaro outclassed Bong Manique, 6-1, 6-1, while Sagansay outplayed Francis Factura, 7-5, 6-4, to advance against Ricardo Lagac Jr.

In other matches, No. 12 Luisito Clores beat Boris Jan Chavez, 6-1, 6-1; Miguel Narvaez downed Jet Esteller, 6-2, 6-2; No. 13 Chemiel Mantua defeated Jessie Magat, 6-1, 6-4; No. 15 Roland Kraut blasted Andy Salansay, 6-0, 6-0; Patrick John Tierro whipped Pedro Gonzales, 6-1, 6-2; Nico Riego De Dios beat Hans Prudencio, 6-1, 6-0; Joel Palao rapped Emet Avroso, 6-4, 6-2.

First leg champion Johnny Arcilla, Joseph Victorino and Adelo Abadia had first-round byes.

Hot-headed horse owners have no place in sports

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

HORSE RACING fans should be pleased to know that the Philippine Racing Commission is conducting a hearing today to investigate the incident involving a race horse owner who allegedly threatened to shoot a jockey who did not follow his instruction to lose a race held recently at the Santa Ana Park.

Class D jockey Dennis Camañero alleged in his sworn affidavit before Makati Prosecutor I Alex Bagaoisan that horse owner Alfredo Po pointed a gun at him after he disobeyed Po's instruction to lose on board Top Quest last Aug. 8 at the Makati turf. Top Quest, a longshot, won the race. The former apprentice jockey also told the Criminal Investigation Division of the Makati Police that there were several witnesses during the gun-poking incident.

"*Ang order po niya* (Po) *ay ipatalo si* Top Quest *pero di ko magawa kasi natakot ako na baka masuspindi po ako ng isang taon* (Mr. Po ordered me to lose the race atop Top Quest, but I couldn't do it for fear of getting a one-year suspension)," Camañero said. Camañero also claimed Po threatened him by allegedly saying: "*Kaya kong bayaran ang buhay mo. Papatayin kita* (I can buy your life. I will kill you)."

The hearing, according to racing writer Edwin Villanueva, was set after the Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners urged the Philracom to conduct a thorough investigation because the incident is "damaging the reputation of horse owners" and also "tend to erode efforts of all industry players to raise the level of public confidence in horse racing." The INQUIRER tried to get Po's side, but he was not available, Villanueva added.

Marho president Aristeo "Putch" Puyat said the Philracom, headed by chair Jaime Dilag, should punish Po if he is found guilty of the accusations. Racing officials should wield the big stick against erring horse owners because it is the Philracom's responsibility and moral duty to the legions of horse racing fans. Hotheads have no place in sports.

***

MLQ, FORGOTTEN SPORTS LEADER? The nation marked yesterday, Aug. 19, the 125th birthday of President Manuel L. Quezon. But I noticed that there was little fanfare to celebrate the occasion from our sports leaders, particularly officials of the Philippine Olympic Committee and the Philippine Sports Commission, despite the important role Quezon played in Philippine sports. Anyway, for their information, here are some of Quezon's contribution to sports:

- In 1916, Quezon, then president of the Philippine Commonwealth, became the first elected Filipino president of the defunct Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation (PAAF), forerunner of the POC. He held that position until 1935.
- During his term, the Philippines debuted in the Olympics in Paris in 1924 when sprint champion David Nepomuceno, accompanied by Dr. Regino Ylanan, competed in the Games.
- It was also during Quezon's administration that the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, then the most modern and the envy of our Asian neighbors, was completed in 1936. Using his clout and influence, Quezon persuaded members of the Philippine Legislature to grant the PAAF a charter allowing it to hold sweepstakes draws, the proceeds of which were used to finance the construction of the RMSC.
- In 1923, Quezon was elected president of the Far Eastern Athletic Association, organizer of the biennial Far Eastern Games, which was Asia's version of the Olympics. Featuring the top athletes of China, Japan and the Philippines, the FE Games were held from 1913 to 1934.

Gifted with a zeal and enormous enthusiasm for sports, Quezon regularly attended NCAA basketball games where he cheered for Letran, his alma mater, while his children—Baby, Nini and Nonong—rooted for La Salle.

For inquiries, call telefax (044)933-1214. My e-mail address: manolo-inigo@yahoo.com

Timely warning for Pacquiao

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

MANNY Pacquiao as a preacher?

He may not have the time and appetite for that noble calling.

But many times, we've heard it said that, if boxing were a religion here, Pacquiao would have readily gained tremendous following.

You see, unlike most of our lardy, self-styled leaders, Pacquiao has established unassailable credibility.

He delivers, quite promptly, on his promises.

OK, his punches did not help the hungry *masa* make both ends meet, but his big victories, mainly that third-round knockout of an ambitious challenger in Los Angeles last month, brought instant and lasting joy to our poor, harried countrymen.

He was not salvation personified. But Pacquiao was the embodiment of a neat narcotic that made his countrymen feel truly great.

He's, in short, no Incredible Hulk.

***

The reigning 122-lb king of the International Boxing Federation is sleek, sharp, strong.

All his purses are openly declared, which means he has no hidden wealth, and therefore cannot be a target of muck-diggers in the Senate.

He would be lucky to have netted half of the $180,000 purse in that LA fight after his Japanese manager, who uses a Pinoy dummy, got his hefty cut.

Add to that the taxes, the ten percent net of his trainer, the bonanza for the business manager and other hangers-on.

Pacquiao, you bet, is not yet as wealthy as we could suspect him to be.

In fact, he felt he had been deprived for failing to turn his last outing into a masterpiece.

He trained extra hard for that bout which unfortunately lapsed into a shortlived mismatch.

Not his fault, of course. But how Pacquiao wished he had dished out, for his countrymen and the whole world to see, his glowing repertoire of punches.

***

Anyway, it's also easier now to believe Pacquiao's resounding claim that he can take care of featherweight great Marco Antonio Barrera of Mexico.

It was Barrera's name, always on his mind in the pre-fight, which Pacquiao blurted out upon being asked by Larry Merchant on his immediate target.

Merchant himself quietly nodded after Pacquiao made the dare in his native English.

So who would not pause and listen to Pacquiao after that sensational stoppage?

"*Nakaka*-believe," swore the accomplished, multi-awarded painter Danny Dalena, a keen student of boxing.

Instantly, one boxing scholar was calling out on Ring Magazine to put our very own IBF superbantam king in its best pound-for-pound list.

Attested Teddy Reynoso of Bulacan, Bulacan: "Pacquiao possesses the power and strength of a junior lightweight, even a full lightweight, to go with his courage, above average skill and boxing talent. He's way too strong for the competition in the 122-lb level. We're indeed fortunate to have produced a great boxer, a phenomenon gifted with natural physique, that holds the weight of a featherweight but who unleashes the power and strength of a lightweight."

***

That's a sound, valid treatise.

But then, it may also help if somebody could confirm if Pacquiao is also tough, strong enough to take the big punches in the heavier division that he plans to invade?

We took time out to float this to the fish-selling horde in the nearby sidewalk market and all the Pacquiao fans there could only stare and wonder.

As avid Pacquiao followers, they knew too well how their idol had had to pick himself from the canvas in previous outings.

These fans could only shake their heads upon being told that, in boxing equation, the ability to throw knockout punches can never be a gauge to a boxer's inborn sturdiness.

Not to play killjoy, says boxing expert Hermie Rivera, who vows that, just like his ringside buddies in California, his money would be on the other side in case a Pacquiao-Barrera dream fight pushes through.

"That would be a very interesting, exciting fight," Hermie explains.

He adds that Pacquiao could succeed in his quest for greatness if he hurts Barrera early enough.

Unfortunately, Hermie continues to explain, Barrera is a seasoned, thinking natural featherweight who could be expected to make the necessary adjustments after the opening salvo.

Well, Pacquiao could have an edge in that he's been training in one of the world's finest gyms, the Wild Card Boxing Club in Hollywood, a regular haunt of Silvester Stallone.

But there are things, like turning the chin into granite, the sides into solid flanks, which cannot be learned inside the boxing gym.

Pacquiao does not have to get this from a preacher for him to believe.

SPORTSWATCH

Junior tennis goes to Visayas

THE 2003 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop swings back to the Visayas at the Iloilo Provincial Sports Complex hardcourts on Aug. 22-24. Czech Republic campaigner Ralph Barte, Ateneo's Christian Canlas and Mark Balce lead the Metro Manila delegation while the Siso kins, Bernardine, Sally Mae and Sallydine spearhead the Cebuano charge in the netfest organized by CTW with support from Wilson balls, adidas, Sports Kids and sanctioned by Philta.

Inter-school golf draws 10 teams

TEN teams have confirmed their participation in the 16th Inter-School Junior Golf Championship set Sept. 7-9 in three courses. The early entries are International School of Manila, Brent School of Manila, Ateneo de Manila University, Colegio de San Agustin, University of St. La Salle Bacolod, OB Montessori, La Salle Greenhills, La Salle Zobel, Poveda Learning Center and Cebu International School. Philippine Junior Golf Federation president Edgardo "Tito Boy" Cantada said schools can still join the tournament by calling tels. 837-0795/838-6543 or fax no. 815-6050.

Sports community honors Ninoy

THE LOCAL sports community, headed by Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain, will be holding a thanksgiving mass at 10 a.m. tomorrow to commemorate the 20th death anniversary of Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. The mass will be attended by PSC and Philippine Olympic Committee officials, heads of various National Sports Associations, and national athletes and coaches.

Suarez, Canare pace bowl elims

CJ Suarez and Jojo Canare produced big games at Edsa Lanes recently to lead 54 others into the second round of the Bowling World Cup national finals. Suarez fired games of 268, 257, 255, a couple of 249s, 246, 237, to post a 12-game series of 2837 and a 245-pin lead over fellow national player RJ Bautista in the men's competition. Canare came through with games of 276, 249, 225 and 222 to chalk up a 10-game series of 2148 and pace Cecille Cuesta by 193 pins in the ladies' division.

De Leon triathlon champion

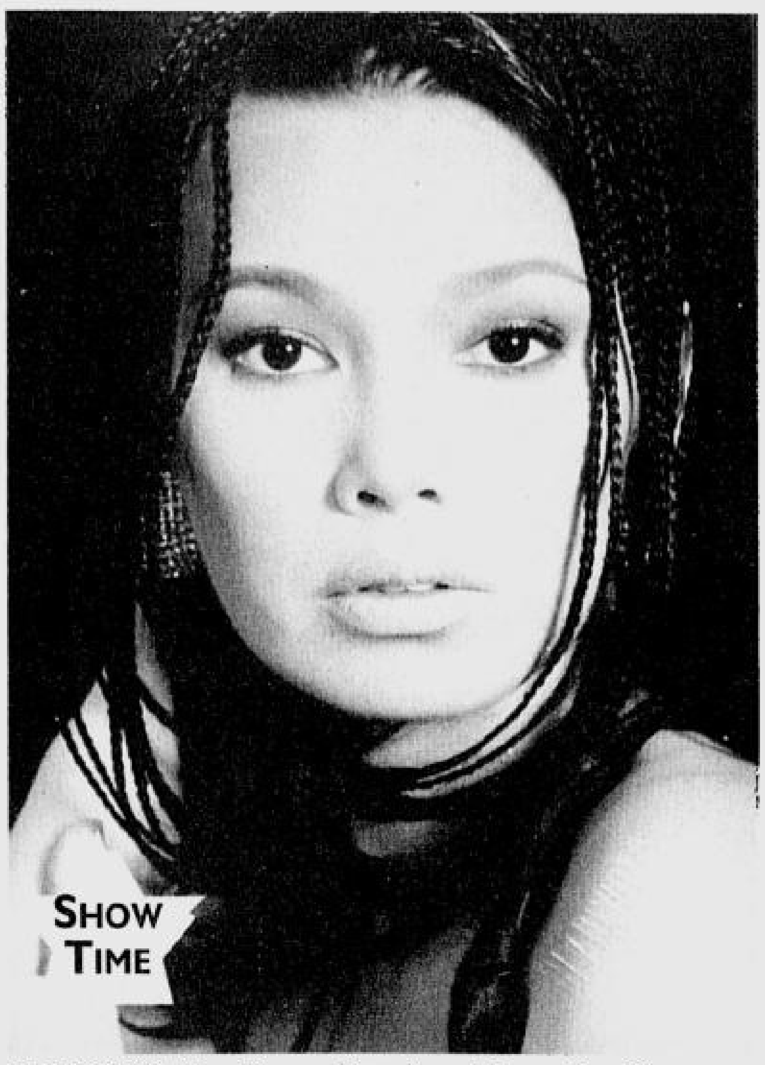
BACK-TO-BACK national titlist Ani Karina de Leon topped the second Sarawak International Triathlon in Kuching, Malaysia over the weekend. Her compatriot Ripples Rafanan bagged the bronze. In the men's side, two-time national titlist George Vilog and Johnny Yanong, both Davaoños, wound up third and fourth behind two Singapore-based expatriates. De Leon of Quezon City and Vilog, the 2003 National Triathlon Trials titleholders, vaulted into the top 10 in the Asian Cup series rankings.

San Beda booters triumph

SAN BEDA College walloped Mapua, 8-0, last Sunday in the "Ang Liga" football cup at its pitch in Mendiola. "Although the initial game plan was not executed well, the boys played good enough to win," said SBC coach Ryan De La Cruz. The Bedans were led by a second half hat trick by Dan 'The Bull' Padernal, singles by Cenaroza, Mellendrez, Liman, Cariño and a superb header by Gerald Orcullo. Mapua coach Casper Ngo said his team was still in off-season mode. The win earned for San Beda the favorite role in the "Ang Liga," especially in the aftermath of RP U-23's unimpressive showing against RP U-20 last Sunday.

Malu Barry 20 years after

By Julie Fe Navarro
Contributor



NO REGRETS. After 20 years, Barry is ready for another 20.

SINGER Malu Barry is celebrating her 20 years in show biz. And what colorful 20 years they've been. As the Carpenter song that is often requested by Malu's followers says, "I've been too many places in my life and times/ I've sung a lot of songs, I've made some bad rhymes . . ."

"Life has been kind to me," says the singer in typical Malu Barry style, which is full of life and laughter. "I've had my ups and downs. "There was a time I thought I would never be able to sing again, but thank God, I was able to overcome that chilling experience.

"*Alam mo, siguro pag* 'bad grass' *ka, talagang pag hindi mo pa oras ay hindi ka pa kukunin sa itaas*," she adds, laughing at the memory of what she calls her near brush with death.

In 1989, she was a regular performer at the Hyatt's Calesa Bar, the same music lounge where other singers like Joey Albert, Janet Basco, Isay Alvarez and Cynthia Patag also started their careers, when she started experiencing shortness of breath after singing only four or five songs.

"*Dati hindi ko problema, kahit sampung kanta pa, tuluy-tuloy iyan, kaya ko," she recalls. "Pero dumating sa puntong apat o limang kanta pa lang, namamalat na ako, namamaos na ang boses ko. At ang leeg ko, unti-unting lumalaki* so I had to resort to wearing turtleneck shirts. At times, I would wear big, chunky chokers to cover my neck. *Akala ng iba*, fashion statement, but I was just trying to hide my neck which was starting to swell."

She went to St. Luke's Medical Center, and Dr. Charles Harn told her she had a thyroid ailment and had to be operated on. But after the operation, her problems were far from over. She had been in the hospital one week after the surgery when she was told that another operation was required, "*kasi may naiwan pang* cyst."

"*Isipin mo iyon, isang lingo pa lang akong nahihiwa sa leeg, hihiwain na naman ako ulit*," she says. "*Pero kailangan daw* so I had no choice.

"*Doon ako talagang kinabahan. Hindi ako makapagsalita. Walang lumalabas na boses. Lahat ng gusto kong sabihin, kailangang isulat ko para maintindihan ako.*"

She thought the end was near and she was deathly afraid. And so she decided to do what she thought was the best way to fight her fear: She moved to the hospital's most expensive suite.

"I had a party every night in the suite," she recounts. "I invited my friends and we played mahjong every night. I thought, I was going to die anyway, so I might as well enjoy my last days."

The end did not come for Malu. After the two operations, and after numerous therapy sessions and maintenance medication, her doctor's promise came true: Her vocal chords remained intact and her voice was not affected. Months later, Malu started singing again.

"*Walang nagbago sa boses ko, tulad pa rin ng dati. Unti-unti nang bumalik ang* confidence *ko*. I started singing again, this time at the Spindle where Rico J. Puno was the toast then of the lounge crowd."

The late great filmmaker Lino Brocka became an instant fan after he heard Malu's rendition of "A Song for You," the Carpenter song. Soon, she was in the movies.

Her career as an actress never flourished, because "I couldn't take the system."

"I was too impatient," she says. "*Hindi ko kayang maghintay nang matagal sa* shooting. Can you imagine, the call time was 9 in the morning, but my scenes would be shot at 9 in the evening."

She has no regrets, she claims. Once, during the early years of her career, a popular movie and recording company signed her up for two years. Nothing came out it.

Malu has been singing for 20 years but she has not recorded an album. Still, she feels it's never too late. "I just might produce my own album," she says, as the threat of more laughter starts to gurgle in her throat, "*at ipamimigay ko na lang sa mga kaibigan ko* as souvenir."

The Hyatt Regency celebrates Malu's 20 years with a special show, "Portraits of Yesterday," tomorrow night at the Hyatt Regency Manila. It's bound to be really special because Malu has a way of making you feel that she, in the middle of a crowded lounge, is singing to you and you alone. As the most requested song says, "But we're alone now and I'm singing this song for you."

Boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: Our judges are about to announce the winner of our contest. Can you tell them the prize he will win?

Co-host: Of course! The winner gets P3,000, while the consolation prize is P5,000!

(*Sa* consolation prize *na lang kami, mas malaking konsuwelo!*)

* * *

Host: I hear that the furniture you make is not only beautiful, it's also durable.

Guest: Oh, yes, our furnitures do not furnish through the years!

(Then call them "tarnishtures," by all means!)

* * *

Host: How do you feel, now that well-known painters have asked you to pose nude for their artworks?

Guest: So happy *talaga! Di ko nga ma*-imagine *na isa na ako sa mga* model *sa* fenting!

(Catch her before she fents!)

* * *

Host: How did your skin complexion become so fair?

Guest: By staying out of the sun. But sometimes, I go out, *ayaw ko naman kasing magmukhang* like albanio *sa kaputian!*

(*Ay,* albanio!—*Galing* Albania?)

* * *

Host: How come only the army stages coups—why don't the police stage them, too?

Guest: It's because we keep educating the policemen who are under us.

Host: How do you do that?

Guest: Every week, we have regular police information and education.

Host: What do you take up in those sessions?

Guest: Information and education.

(*Kulit!*)

* * *

Host: So, there's no chance that the police will mount a coup? What assurance can you give us?

Guest: 95-percent assurance!

Host: You're that sure, huh?

Guest: Yes—like I said, 99 percent!

(Ask him again, it could go up to 100!)

* * *

Host: How did you reform your life after your shady past?

Guest: I went back to the sacraments. Especially confession, that's so important. Because, in confession, you get a new life, after the priest absorb your sin.

(Poor priest!)

* * *

Host: Was it easy for you to decide to reform?

Guest: Oh, so hard. *Nakapamahirap na disisyon!*

(*Ay, nakapamahirap!*)

* * *

Host: Some starlets say that you don't have the "K" to do sexy scenes, because you're fat.

Guest: *Ay naku, inggit lang sila.* They can keep talking and talking, *wala akong pakailam!*

(*Pakailam? Isa ka pa.*)

* * *

Host: After your recent breakup with your boyfriend, do you think you can fall in love again soon?

Guest: No way! I don't want to have a complication regarding a man, and you know . . . —I just wanna live a peaceful!

(Complete your sentences—please!)

* * *

Host: Is it true that your sister is getting married?

Guest: That's right. In fact, tonight we're having her *despedida la soltera?*

(*Ay, la soltera!*)

'Ang Paglilitis ni Mang Serapio'

NEW members of Tanghalang Ateneo will stage Paul Dumol's "Ang Paglilitis ni Mang Serapio," an emotionally charged drama on political injustice, at 7 p.m. tonight and on Aug. 30 and Sept. 1 at the Colayco Pavilion, Ateneo de Manila University. Call 426-6001.

The second of four morality plays to be mounted for the company's 25th season, "Paglilitis" shows the beggar Serapio, accused of harboring a child, being subjected to a travesty of a trial where the judge and prosecutors hear false testimonies from paid witnesses. Ryan Villena directs.

DID YOU KNOW...

Kristine Hermosa was seen last Sunday malling with only an *alalay* at the Alabang Town Center. When the young star entered the Ralph Lauren shop, her companion waited outside.

Retrospect all over town

RETROSPECT

THE RETROSPECT band is playing music together with the latest pop craze in town—Liquor Pops, the alcoholic ice block from Australia.

Catch Restrospect tonight and every Wednesday night at Music Recall in Eastwood City, Libis, and enjoy Liquor Pops' six flavors and freebies to the tune of Retrospect's music from the '70s, '80s, and early '90s, and their original songs from their CD, "The Luv Bug Retrospect" from Harmony Music of Alpha Records.

Party some more with the retro pop icon on Mondays at Ratsky Tomas Morato, Thursdays at Le Boulevardier of Hotel Intercon, and Saturdays at Drum and Bass at the Dusit Hotel.

The band will also be in the Abuyog, Leyte town fiesta celebration on Aug. 24, and at the Music Warehouse in Dagupan City on Aug. 29.

Retrospect's all-revival album is coming soon, also from Harmony Music.

For inquiries, call Godspeed Management, 820-1128 or 829-6216, e-mail Retrospect at godspeed@retrospect.ph, or visit www.retrospect.ph

'Let's give FPJ time'

From page A32

run for president in the 2004 elections.

Manny Portes, national chair of the FPJ Volunteers Brigade, claimed the group has so far gathered 2.5 million signatures, and hopes to gather five million until October.

Siguion-Reyna said that she asked FPJ about 2004 when they saw each other last Friday, but the actor neither confirmed nor denied his plan to run for president.

She said his response "says a lot about someone who is very private with his affairs," adding that FPJ should be given time.

Siguion-Reyna said she was not representing the movie industry in the news conference. "I have no right to speak before you in behalf of the movie people," she said.

Portes said the gathering was not only an appeal but also a demand for the action king to finally throw his hat into the political arena.

Siguion-Reyna even likened FPJ's mass appeal to that of the national hero Andres Bonifacio.

She said the reason why the country has not prospered was the lack of a model that would inspire the people to do great things for themselves and for the country.

"*Gusto ba natin ang mga nakaupo sa* Malacañang *ngayon?*" Siguion-Reyna said during the news conference. "We don't need an economist. We don't need a lawyer."

Also present during the news conference were Siguion-Reyna's brother, former Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, who is the group's honorary chair, as well as representatives from the legal profession, sports and the academe.

Enrile said that although the group appointed him honorary chair, his presence in the gathering did not mean he was specifically endorsing FPJ.

He said that he would support whoever would be the standard bearer of the opposition. If it happens to be FPJ, "I will support him 100 percent," he said.

MAKATI CINEMANILA2003
5TH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
7-24 August 2003
Greenbelt Cinemas, Ayala Center
Screening Schedule
www.cinemanila.com.ph

		11 30 am	2:00 pm	4:30 pm	7:00 pm	9:30 pm
Aug 17 Sunday	GREENBELT 1 CINEMA 1	HOUSE OF GUAVAS Vietnam	OIL CHILDREN Iran	DEKADA '70 Philippines	WHALE RIDER New Zealand	DIVINE INTERVENTION Palestine
	GREENBELT 1 CINEMA 2	EDI Poland	MR. AND MRS. IYER India	BELLEVILLE RENDEZVOUS France	THE SON (Le Fils) Belgium/France	CITY OF GOD Brazil
Aug 18 Monday	GREENBELT 1 CINEMA 1	CHARLIE: THE LIFE AND ART OF CHARLES CHAPLIN USA	THE SON (Le Fils) Belgium/France	THE TRACKER Australia	UZAK Turkey	BRIEF CROSSING France
	GREENBELT 1 CINEMA 2	RITO TERMINAL Mexico	DE LA CALLE Mexico	OTILIA RAUDA Mexico	LA PLUMA DEL ARCANGEL Venezuela	EROTIC TALES Germany
Aug 19 Tuesday	GREENBELT 1 CINEMA 1	POWER TRIP (Documentary) USA	EDI Poland	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA Philippines	WHALE RIDER New Zealand	PUBLIC TOILET Hong Kong
	GREENBELT 1 CINEMA 2	OTILIA RAUDA Mexico	DOLLS Japan	THE SON (Le Fils) Belgium/France	BLESSING BELL Japan	EROTIC TALES Germany
Aug 20 Wednesday	GREENBELT 1 CINEMA 1	CA BAU KAN (A Courtesan) Indonesia	PILA BALDE Philippines	ANGEL ON THE RIGHT Tajikistan	BRIEF CROSSING France	RING I Japan
	GREENBELT 1 CINEMA 2	RAIN New Zealand	ACOSADA EN LUNES DE CARNAVAL Venezuela	MAYA India	WHALE RIDER New Zealand	DOLLS Japan

Changes in the screening schedule are a result of film festival print traffic. Additional screenings to be announced later.

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Katya a call center operator in 'Keka'

SANTOS

"KEKA," the newest Viva Films movie starring Katya Santos, opens today in theaters nationwide.

"Keka" combines action, romance, violence and comedy. It revolves around Keka Jose (Katya), a call center operator who decides to commit revenge on five fraternity boys who murdered her boyfriend five years ago.

"Keka" also stars Wendell Ramos, Vhong Navarro, Jordan Herrera, Bobby Andrews, Luis Alandy, Ryan Eigenmann, Marky Lopez and many others. It was one of only two local movies premiered during the 5th Cinemanila International Film Festival.

The movie is written and directed by Quark Henares.

SHOW TIME

Monster search for bands

MONSTER Radio RX 93.1 is calling all unsigned bands to join the search Band Breakout 2003.

The competition is open to all bands that have not been signed up by any record label as of June 2003. They must have at least three members (two of them, instrument players), who must be aged 25 or below.

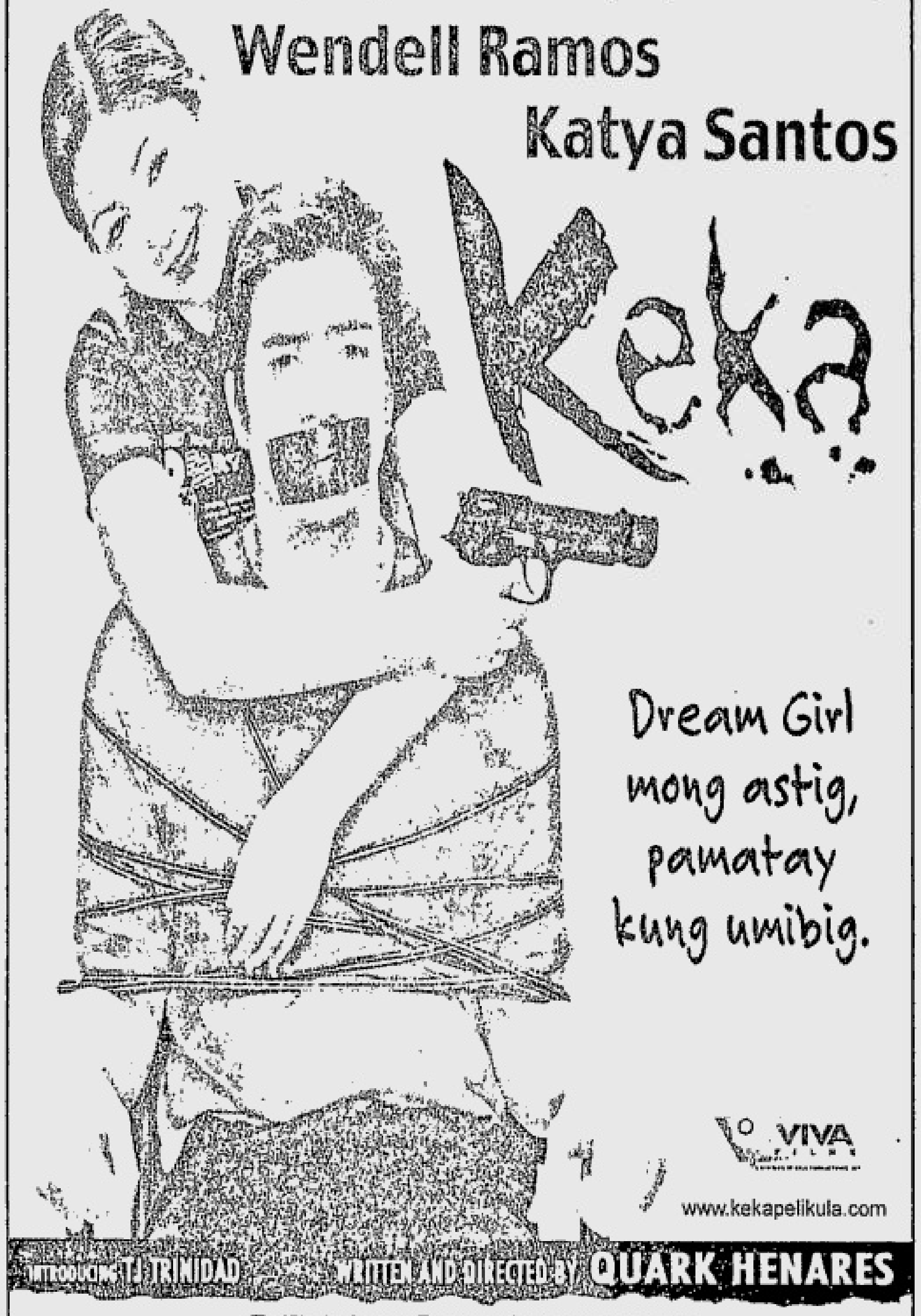
Acoustic R&B and acoustic rock formats will be accepted. Entries must include at least two songs, one original and one cover, on CD, MD, cassette, or MP3 format, and a band profile.

Last year's Band Breakout yielded a bumper crop of discoveries, including Stonefree, and the grand prize winner, Session Road, which is now preparing its debut album from Alpha Records.

The grand prize winner also walks away with P50,000 in cash.

Interested bands may bring their entries to RX 93.1, 17th Floor, Strata 2000, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, or contact Lally Fider at lally@rx931.com. Bands in Cebu and the other southern provinces may submit their entries to Monster Radio DYBT 105.9 at the 10th Floor, Centerpoint Hotel, LUYM Bldg., Plaridel St., corner Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City.

Deadline for submission of entries is Aug. 31, 2003.



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Bobby Andrews Ryan Eigenmann Marky Lopez Luis Alandy
Wendell Ramos
Katya Santos
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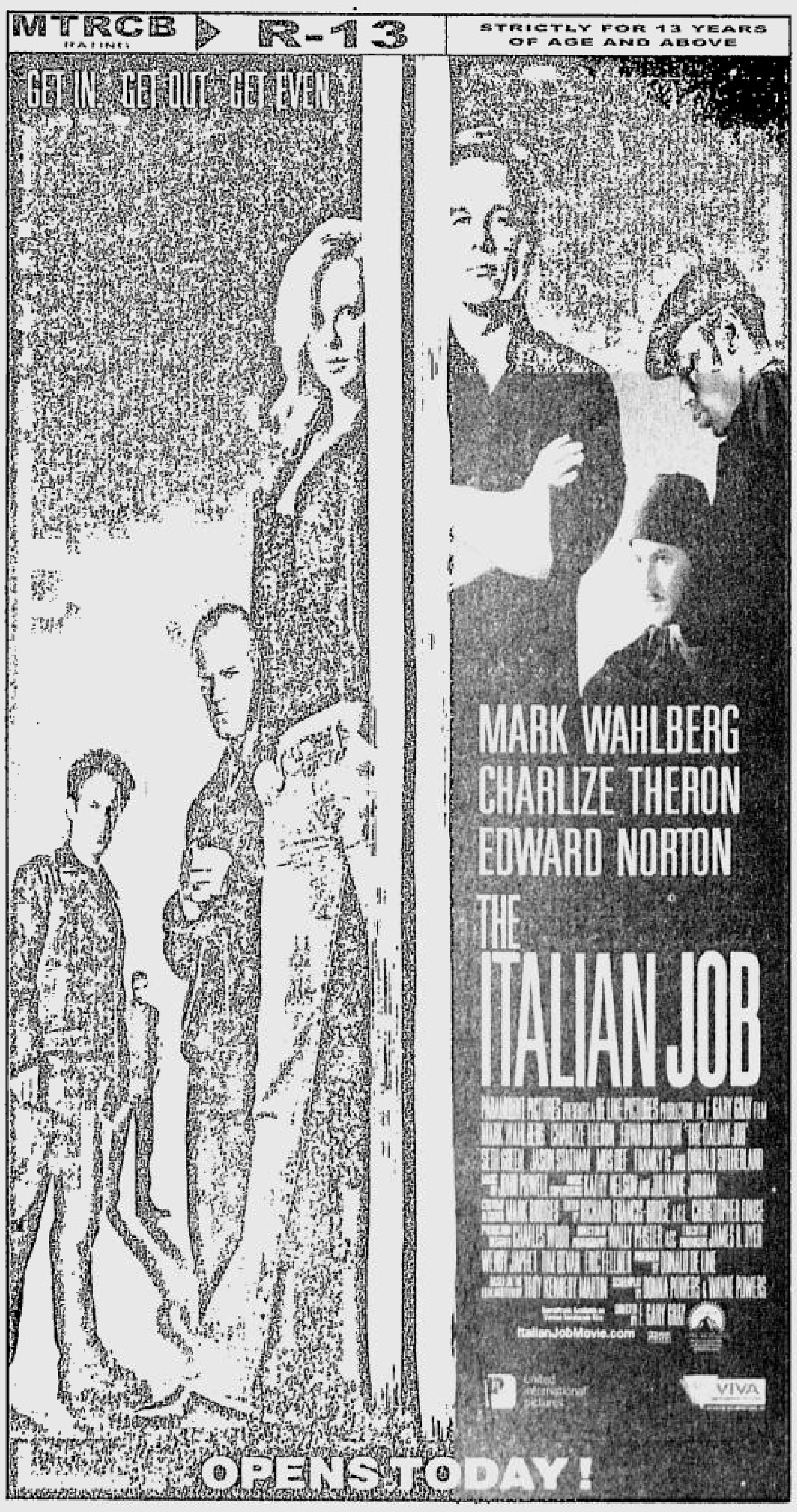

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HEY, CHINOVELA FANS! JACKPOT ANG AFTERNOON VIEWING N'YO RITO!

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Manood lang araw-araw ng My MVP Valentine at The Poor Prince at puwede na kayong manalo ng mga papremyong chino-bongga talaga!

Over 1.9 MILLION worth of prizes ang ipamimigay!

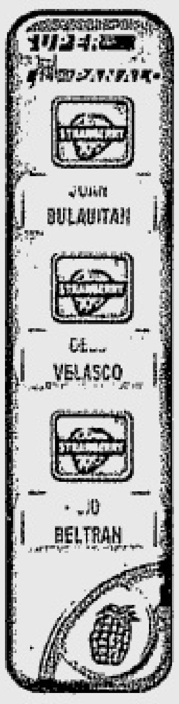
HOW TO JOIN

- **From Monday to Friday, mag-download lang ng cellphone logo ng inyong mga paboritong GMA shows.**

  Text CHINO <keyword> name address then send to 2364 for Globe or 4627 for Smart or Talk N Text. Tandaan: one logo is equivalent to one entry per day. ₱15 per download.

- **Tumutok sa back-to-back afternoon chinovela ng GMA kung saan makikita ang tatlong napiling winners for the day.**
- **Tatawagan ang mga napiling winners para tanungin tungkol sa ipinalalabas na episode ng My MVP Valentine o The Poor Prince.**
- **Kapag nasagot ng viewer ang tanong, panalo na siya!**

WINNER SILA
NG
PRIZE FOR THE DAY!



MAY BONUS PA!

Sa bawat participating viewer, may naka-assign na fruit logo. Kapag nag-match ang fruits ng tatlong winners, may bonus pa silang ₱20,000 each!

CHINO-PANALO KAYO SA MGA PRIZES!

Iba't ibang papremyo ang puwedeng mapanalunan ng tatlong viewers araw-araw!

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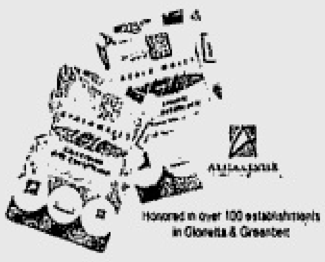
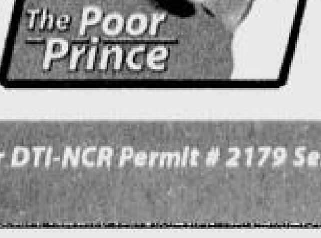


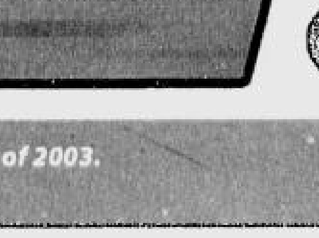
WEEK 1 August 11-15	WEEK 2 August 18-22	WEEK 3 August 25-29	WEEK 4 September 1-5
Nokia 7250	Samsung (29") TV 73.66 cms.	Samsung Home Theater System HT-DM150	Nokia 6610
Sony Cybershot DSC-U20	Sony Video Camera DCR-TRV 18	Sony Playstation 2	Ayala Center gift checks worth ₱15,000
Stereo System Panasonic SC-VK 700	Samsung MM-DB9 DVD Mini-Component	Boracay Trip for 4 (includes airfare & hotel accommodations)	Samsung Flat Screen TV 29K3W
Nokia 6100	Nokia 6800	Nokia 3650	6-month Movie Pass at Ayala Cinemas worth ₱7,200
Robinsons Gift Checks worth ₱15,000	Nokia 7210	Samsung (8 cu. ft.) (24m³) No-Frost Ref with water dispenser	Cebu Trip for 4 (includes airfare & hotel accommodations)

DETAILED MECHANICS

1. All logos requested through GMA's special access numbers cost ₱15.00 for Globe, Smart and Talk N Text per successful sending.
2. All Globe, Smart and Talk N Text subscribers nationwide can join Super Chino Panalo.
3. Logos are available only for Nokia mobile phone users.
4. MVP Valentine and Poor Prince televiewers must register once to join the raffle. Every logo download entitles the participant to one (1) raffle entry and one (1) fruit logo that will be used to determine if all 3 winners will be awarded ₱20,000 each in the event that all the three winners' fruits match.
5. Qualified entries must have registered to Super Chino Panalo, submitted correct registration information and syntax and received a text back from GMA New Media, Inc. (GMA NMI) within the promo period.
6. MVP Valentine and Poor Prince televiewers may send entries daily from 3:01PM to 3:00PM the following day from Monday to Friday. The more entries they send, the higher chances of winning.
7. A confirmation text will be sent for every correct registration: "Hi! You're now included in the raffle 4 a <name of prize> to be drawn on <date of draw>. Download more LOGOs. Txt CHINO <logo>. Ur fruit is <fruit>. Promo is from August 11 to September 5, 2003. Per DTI-NCR permit no. 2179 series of 2003."
8. Viewers who sent in their entries within the game duration but do not receive any text back must inform GMA through GMA New Media, Inc.'s (GMA NMI) Customer Service at (02) 928-7021 local 557.
9. Three (3) winners will be drawn everyday from the qualified entries received from 3:01PM the previous day to 3:00PM of the current playing day from August 11, 2003 to September 5, 2003. This will be held at the GMA New Media, Inc. office at 2/F Marinas Bldg. 11th Jamboree St. GMA Network Complex, Timog cor. EDSA, QC.
10. The winners will be notified by a text from GMA's special access number, a call from GMA NMI's authorized representative and by registered mail.
11. The winners' names will be announced on air within My MVP Valentine and The Poor Prince and they will be given a call to respond to the episodic question for the day.
12. All winners' names will also be published in a newspaper of general circulation.
13. The winners must claim their prize within sixty (60) days from receipt of notification. The prize may be claimed at the nearest GMA Regional office.
14. The winners must present the following in claiming their prize: The SIM card used, the mail notification letter, and a valid ID with picture and address.
15. The winners shall shoulder the 20% tax for prizes exceeding ₱10,000.
16. All participants are presumed to have read, understood, and agree to the above-mentioned regulations.
17. All employees of GMA Network Inc., GMA New Media, Inc., Globe Telecoms, and Smart Communications, and their relatives up to the second degree of affinity or consanguinity are disqualified from joining.

Araw-araw pagkatapos ng GMA My Animé





GMA

Promo period is from August 11 to September 5, 2003. Per DTI-NCR Permit # 2179 Series of 2003.

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Louie C. Camino

Meet & Greet
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Keka
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Tutuban Silverscreen, 2 pm
SM City Sta. Mesa, 3 pm
SM City North Edsa, 4 pm
SM Megamall, 5 pm
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'Let's give FPJ time'

By Marinel R. Cruz

"LET'S be patient. Let's give him time."

Actress, movie producer and former chief censor Armida Siguion-Reyna was speaking of action movie king Fernando Poe Jr., during yesterday's gathering of the FPJ (Food, Peace and Justice) Volunteers Brigade at Club Filipino in San Juan.

The group said it has launched a signature campaign to convince FPJ to

LET'S/29

THE "KING" neither confirmed nor denied his 2004 plans, says Siguion-Reyna.

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Imports down 3.3% in June to $2.92B

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S import bill declined by 3.3 percent to $2.92 billion in June from a year ago, reversing the rebound seen in May as manufacturers slowed down on their inventory build-up following the depreciation of the peso against the US dollar.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that purchases of electronic products—used as inputs for the country's top exports—dropped by 4.3 percent even as these continued to account for 45.9 percent of the total bill.

Overall, payments for raw materials and intermediate goods consisting of unprocessed and semi-processed raw materials declined by 6.9 percent to $1.2 billion.

The country's imports had expanded in May after posting a decline in April, the first in 14 months. As bulk of the country's exports are dependent heavily on foreign inputs, the import bill is a key indicator of subsequent export performance.

"The rebound in May was in anticipation of the recovery in the global demand for electronics," Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said yesterday. "I suspect that there was already an inventory build-up. Probably, the build-up has subsided in June."

Jose Vistan, an economist at AB Capital Securities, said the depreciation of the local currency in June from a high of 51.88 to a low of 53.80 to the dollar (as of June 27) likely dampened the appetite to buy imported goods.

"The cost of importation shot up and importers may have speculated that the peso would recover, or they are in the process of awaiting a peso recovery, before resuming their orders," Vistan said.

"Also, if you look at the imports for most of the first semester, there was sufficient stock of inventory so this gave them some room to slacken a bit given that the peso has depreciated," he ex-

IMPORTS/ B4

Peso closes at record low of 55.12 to $1

POLITICAL uncertainty following allegations of corruption against First Gentleman Miguel Arroyo took its toll on financial markets yesterday and pushed the peso to a record closing low of 55.12 to $1.

Banks also tried to bid up the rates of five-year government bonds that prompted the Bureau of Treasury to reject all bids that would have raised the cost of five-year money to 10.482 percent from 9.749 percent a month ago.

PESO/ B5

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NO NEW INVESTMENT, NO ASSET SALE

Power industry reforms seen taking too long

By Ronnel W. Domingo

AMERICAN investors think there could neither be any successful sale of National Power Corp.'s generating assets nor any commitment to new investments in this sector in the next two or three years due to "regulatory uncertainties and the election fever" in the country, a power company executive said.

Bart Lucarelli, who was representing the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines during a forum of power industry players and government officials last Monday, said the investor community believed that the implementation of power reforms in the country was taking too long, if it was not stalled completely.

Lucarelli, who is also general manager of Quezon Power Philippines Ltd., said the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira) was expected to create new investment opportunities for independent power producers or IPPs.

"Instead, (the) slow and spotty implementation (of the law) has stopped investment decisions," he said.

Lucarelli said the liberalization of the energy markets as well as the establishment of the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM)—both provided in the Epira—could create opportunities for IPPs, but delays in the implementation were now paralyzing the investment decision process.

Section 30 of the two-year-old law states that the WESM should be put up within one year of its effectivity, but the government remained in the stage of preparing for a demonstration run. The Department of Energy said the WESM would be operational by the first half of 2004.

Section 31 states that retail competition and open access on distribution wires should be implemented not later than three years upon the law's effectivity (or by mid-2004), subject to certain conditions including the privatization of at least 70 percent of Napocor's generating capacity in Luzon and the Visayas.

However, Lucarelli said the sale of Napocor's plants and commitments to build new capacity were unlikely now as investment decisions were put on hold until after the national elections of 2004.

"Populist pressures may influence decisions by the Supreme Court, Energy Regulatory Commission and other government agencies and cause loss of confidence," he said.

Lucarelli added that investors did not like the government's renegotiation of IPP contracts. "The government has (not rescinded any contract but we are not happy) in having to renegotiate in the first place."

Because of investment decisions being put on hold, he said there was the risk that Luzon could suffer from a power shortage between 2006 and 2008.

Philip Morris starts exporting tobacco leaves

By Christine A. Gaylican

PHILIP Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc. will begin exporting some 600 tons of Philippine burley tobacco leaves to its affiliates in the United States, Turkey, Kazakstan, Ukraine, Malaysia and Australia in the next few months.

According to Philip Morris Philippines managing director Chris Nelson, the start of the tobacco leaves exportation will coincide with the shipment of some $200 million worth of locally manufactured cigarettes to Thailand.

Philip Morris is the manufacturer and distributor of Marlboro, Philip Morris and L&M brands.

He said the exportation of the tobacco leaves would directly benefit about 4,000 tobacco farmers in the provinces of Isabela, Quirino and Aurora.

Tests conducted by experienced leaf buyers and cigarette blenders of Philip Morris showed that the Isabela burley tobacco "has an elegant taste that is easy on the throat, a good aroma and clean after-taste." The findings of these tests prompted Philip Morris Philippines to export this tobacco type.

To ensure the quality of the tobacco leaves, Philip Morris' agronomists had trained tobacco farmers on the proper techniques of managing their farms.

Nelson said the export of burley tobacco and other locally produced tobacco-based products dispels fears over the future of the Philippine tobacco industry in the event of the passage of Republic Act 9211 otherwise known as the Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003.

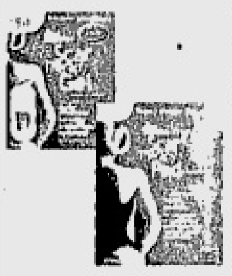
"We see a bright future for the Philippine tobacco industry and the farming communities dependent on it."

"The new Tobacco Regulation Law has provided stability and predictability for tobacco manufacturers like Philip Morris to build and grow our business in the country," Nelson said in a press briefing yesterday.

Nelson said Philip Morris International was still seeing a very viable tobacco industry despite the passage of the tobacco law. He noted that this was evident in the recent establishment of the company's $300-million manufacturing facility in Tanauan, Batangas.

"We want to participate in the drawing up of the implementing rules and regulations of the law," Nelson added.

The law will take effect in January next year.



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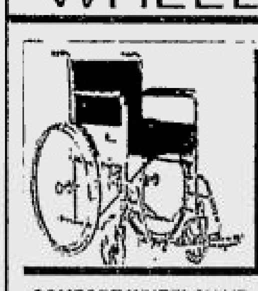

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Marina begins phasing out wooden-hulled ships

By Abigail L. Ho

THE MARITIME Industry Authority (Marina) has started phasing out wooden-hulled vessels operating as passenger carriers in preparation for the permanent phase-out of such vessels by 2010.

Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza said in a statement yesterday that by 2010, wooden-hulled ships heavier than three gross tons would no longer be allowed to operate as passenger vessels.

The Marina is currently working on a memorandum circular that will effectively phase out all wooden-hulled vessels. Other concerned government agencies and certain private sector entities are also working with the Marina in drafting the circular.

Marina Administrator Oscar Sevilla earlier said the phase-out would be done gradually so as not to create a huge impact on sea travelers, entrepreneurs, and shippers of goods who use wooden-hulled vessels for their travels and their businesses.

He pointed out that wooden-hulled vessels usually served the "less profitable but socially valuable tertiary routes" and that most of these were owned by small operators who did not have that much cash to finance a sudden phase-out.

Real estate fund listing rules readied

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has drafted the requirements for the listing of real estate investment funds (REIFs), a new product being developed by the local bourse to diversify its product offerings and keep itself at par with its global counterparts.

The proposed rules on the listing of REIFs have been posted on the PSE's website (www.pse.com.ph) starting yesterday for public feedback.

"While envisioned to parallel the Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) of Japan, the US and Singapore, the REIFs listing rules proposed by the exchange lack the fiscal incentives found in the other exchanges' REITs rules. Nevertheless, the introduction (of the scheme) is envisioned to serve as the foundation for the passage of an enabling law by the legislature," the PSE said.

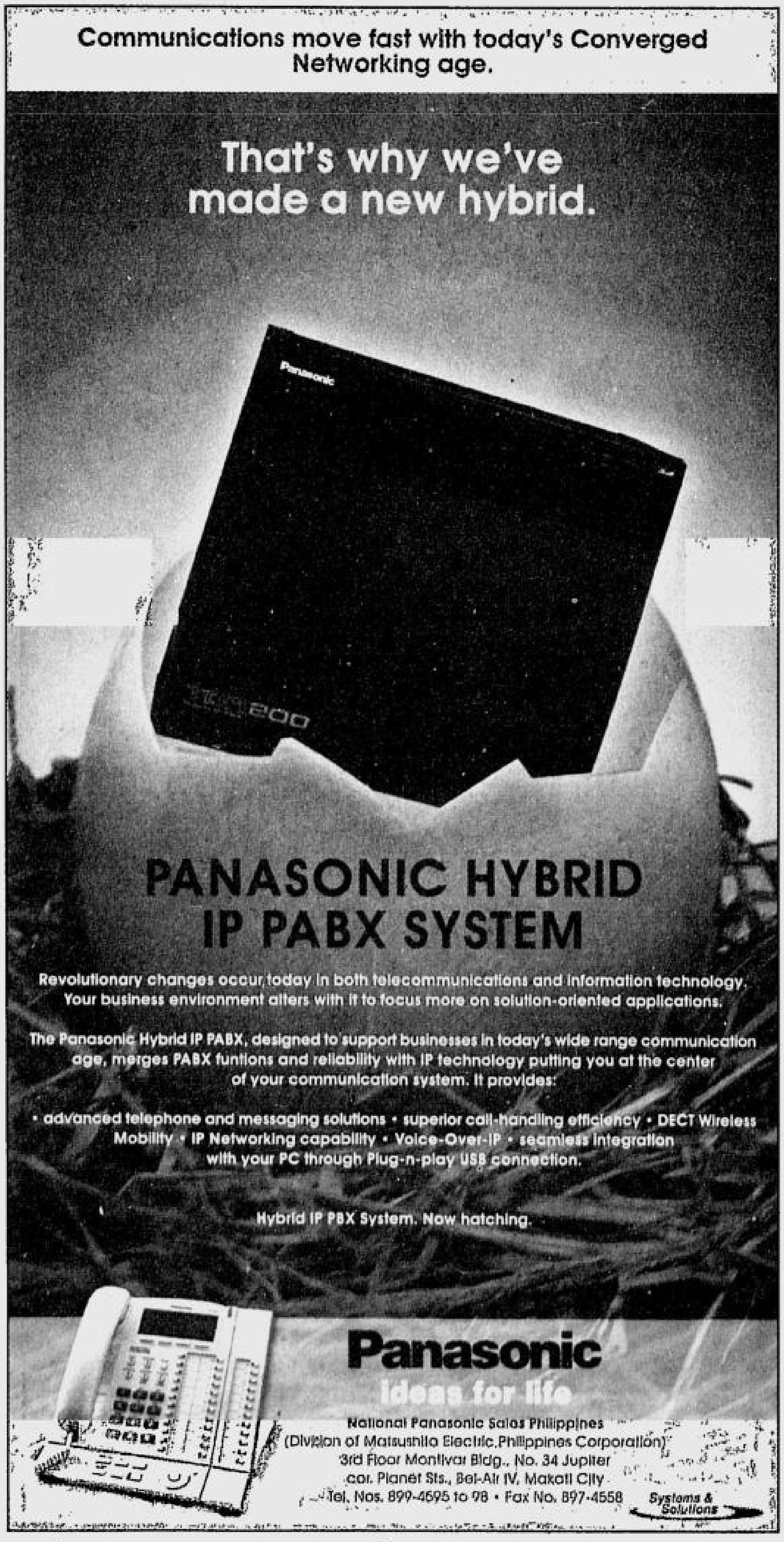
The PSE conceptualized the REIF as an investment vehicle formed for the purpose of owning, operating or managing developed real estate assets and real estate related securities.

Investors will receive investment certificates (equivalent to stock certificates) that can be traded through the PSE similar to listed shares.

The PSE said any REIF applying to list in the exchange must comply with the following requirements on assets under its management:

- The fund must be invested in real estate and must make up at least 70 percent of the total assets under management;
- All assets held by the fund must be limited to real estate assets, real estate related, cash or highly liquid cash equivalents; and,
- At least 50 percent of total assets must be income producing and not likely to be sold within a year.

The PSE likewise proposed a minimum fund size of P500 million for a REIF denominated in pesos. Those denominated in a foreign currency should have: a minimum size of $20 million.



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Systems & Solutions

John Hancock to expand via bancassurance

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE NEW chief executive of John Hancock Life Insurance Corp. in the Philippines yesterday said the company would make bancassurance a top priority in its strategy to expand its distribution channels.

"We will be a reasonably aggressive player in the market," John Casey, who took over as president and chief executive of John Hancock Philippines on Aug. 1, said in a press briefing yesterday.

When John Hancock first started in 1997, it built the strongest bancassurance operation in the country, but that channel was lost when its bank partner —Solid Bank—was absorbed by Metropolitan Bak & Trust Co.

Bancassurance refers mainly to the use of a bank's branch network in selling insurance products.

"We still have a highly experienced bancassurance team and we're intent on building the bank channel again," Casey said.

Casey said he would soon initiate discussions with various financial institutions, including foreign banks, for possible tie-ups.

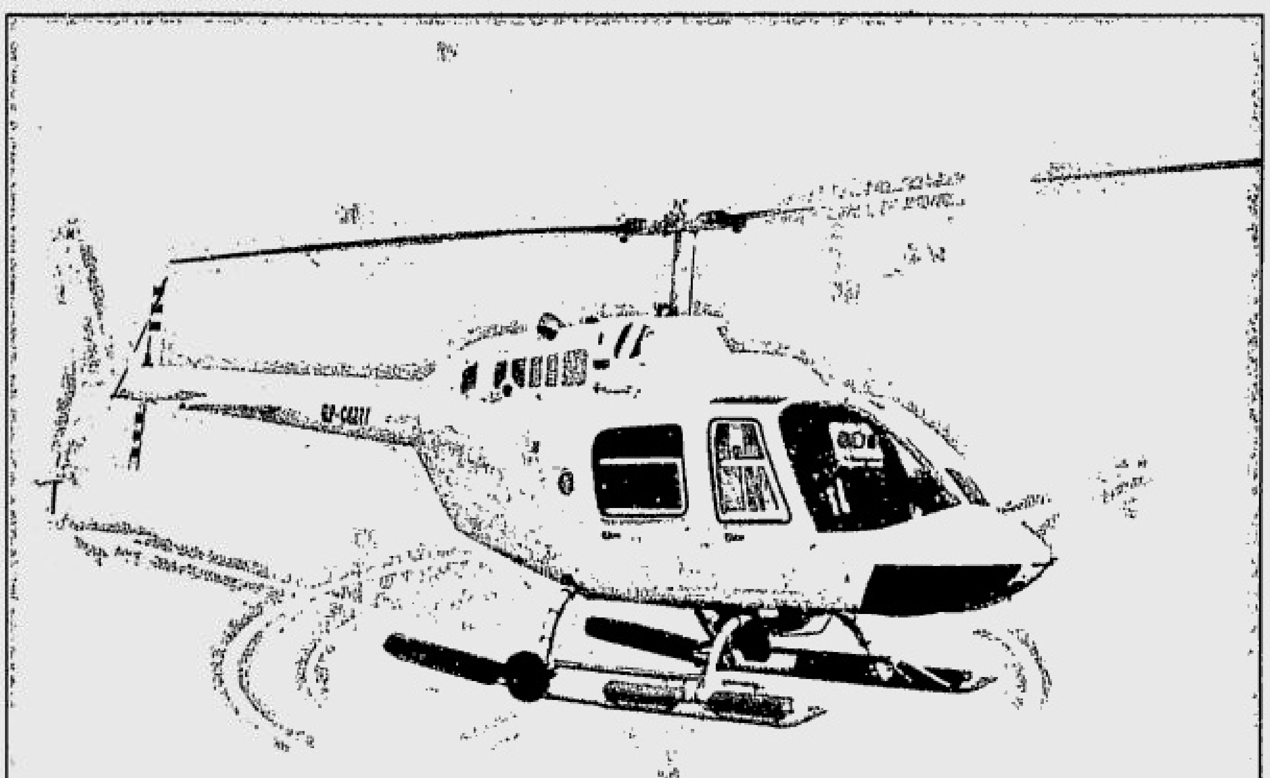
Earlier this year, John Hancock established a business partnership with Citibank and began underwriting CreditShielf, a Citibank credit card feature that pays the outstanding balance of the card or the minimum monthly amount due if the card member dies or is disabled.

"Ideally we'd like to have arrangements with a number of banks," he said, adding that non-exclusive arrangements would be preferred.

The development of bancassurance as a significant distribution channel was "an urgent strategy," he pointed out.

Casey said the agency force would remain to be the company's principal distribution channel.

The life insurance company has over 450 agents in the country and is looking to build the team.



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Ping and the new McCarthyism

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

VISITORS to the LTA building in Legaspi Village now face double jeopardy—their visits are likely to be monitored and may be publicly exposed or, worse, they may even be lumped as part of an alleged criminal enterprise/laundry machine supposedly headed by the First Gentleman and The Firm.

In publicly naming them along with "sinister schemes," "criminal minds", and "illegal purposes," Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson has splashed a new McCarthyist paint not only among government officials but also among media colleagues whom he said frequent the office of Jose Miguel Arroyo.

That the media colleagues so named are unabashedly pro-GMA and anti-Ping there is no doubt. Sure, they have shows in government TV stations, buoyed by sponsorships from government corporations.

But to classify Ramon Tulfo, Alex Magno, and Jarius Bondoc along with "criminal minds" is like labeling our colleagues at Malaya, for their continuing and ardent defense of Lucio Tan, co-schemers for the taipan's tax cases or Ninez Cacho-Olivares as co-conspirator of Edsa 3 or the Oakwood mutiny.

Propagandists, yes. But Criminal schemers?

Put another way, what is there to prevent anyone now from lumping lawyers with their clients' crimes?

If his Senate expose offers a glimpse of the Lacson mind and his methods—we are not even adverting to the Kuratong Baleleng and his alleged human rights/drug dealing records--God help the press and the freedom-loving Filipinos in the event of a Lacson presidency.

Rustan's may leave Cubao

RUSTAN'S plans to leave Cubao altogether when its long-term lease at the Araneta Center expires in a couple of years.

According to the grapevine, the Aranetas are trying to talk to the Tantocos in the hope of their changing their mind.

The Aranetas apparently want Rustan's to be their anchor department store for the new LRT-linked mall that the Aranetas are currently building on the Aurora boulevard side.

But, according to the grapevine, the Rustan's marketing people feel that Cubao's upper to middle class market, Rustan's market, has all but evaporated.

On a more definite ground, Rustan's sister company, Shopwise supermarket, may get to take over the Fiesta Carnival space but not the perimeter shops ringing the pioneering but now down-at-the-heel entertainment complex.

According to the grapevine, Araneta Center and Shopwise have already reached an under-

COCKTALES/ B4

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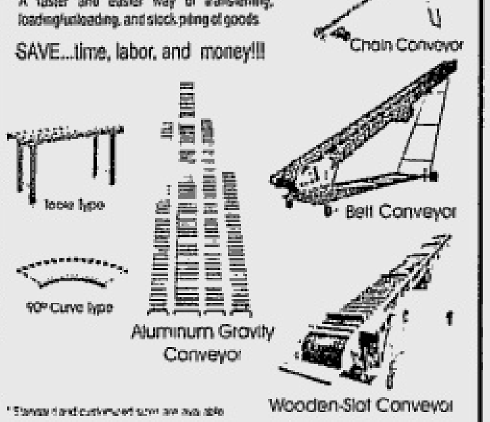

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₱500,001 - ₱5,000,000	6.125%	6.375%	6.625%
₱5,000,001 and above	6.375%	6.625%	6.875%

DOLLAR TIME DEPOSIT	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days
$ 1,000 - $10,000	1.250%	1.250%	1.250%
$ 10,001 - $100,000	1.625%	1.625%	1.625%
$ 100,001 - $500,000	2.500%	2.500%	2.500%
$ 500,001 and above	2.875%	2.875%	2.875%

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January-July budget deficit stays below target at ₱95.4B

By Clarissa S. Batino

STRONG revenue collection and calibrated spending kept the government's budget deficit in the first seven months to P95.4 billion, or 20.1 percent lower than the P119-billion ceiling for the period and 27.6 percent better than the P131-billion shortfall in the same period last year.

However, the deficit in July of P15.82 billion was three times the previous month's gap and 30 percent more compared to P12.127 billion a year ago. Collections in July reached P51.84 billion while expenditures stood at P67.66 billion.

Economic officials said the gap between revenues and spending increased in July as the government settled P6.5 billion in four months' worth of account payables and interest payments grew by 16 percent following the sale of P74.3 billion worth of retail bonds.

Revenues in the first seven months reached P358.2 billion, up 14.3 percent from last year and 7.9 percent better compared to the P332-billion target while expenditures of P453.6 billion was only 1.9 percent higher than in the same period in 2002.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the seven-month fiscal performance was on track to meeting the P202-billion target for the year.

"If we maintain this trend, there's a strong chance that we would not only meet the program but even do better. But we would not change the target," the finance chief said.

The government believed that with the trend in revenues and expenditures, the budget deficit this year could go down to a range of P178-P185 billion from P210.7 billion in 2002.

"We are taking advantage of the good headstart to settle the account payables that would have a positive multiplier effect on the economy," Camacho said.

Even after accelerating the payments of contractual obligations, the accounts settled in the first seven months stood at only P25.3 billion against P41 billion in the same period last year when the government chose to frontload some of its payments.

Camacho credited the bureaus of internal revenue and of customs for meeting their targets consistently.

The BIR has been exceeding collection goals since April while Customs has been surpassing consistently its targets for seven months. The two contribute more than 90 percent of the government's annual revenues.

From January to July, the Customs has delivered P62 billion against a target of P56.6 billion while the BIR's P242 billion generated in the first seven months was only 0.6 percent short of the P244-billion goal for the period but was 11 percent higher than the P218 billion a year ago.

Administrative reforms in both agencies were the key to their improving collections, according to Camacho.

The BIR, for instance, had been tracking down tax cheats since last year when it initiated the intensive tax audit that found more than 1,000 taxpayers understating their obligations.

Stocks end mildly higher, turnover slips

SHARES closed slightly higher yesterday after moving in a tight range as most investors kept a cautious stance with the peso hovering at five-month lows.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) led the gainers, with some foreign houses adding the market heavyweight to their portfolios ahead of a general bounce in stocks expected in the fourth quarter.

The market brushed off a below-target budget deficit in July and a drop in the country's trade deficit in June, despite the good news after a failed mutiny by renegade soldiers late last month raised investor concerns about political and security risk.

Traders said the market was likely to consolidate in the coming sessions, with players waiting for fresh incentives before accumulating more shares.

The main stock index rose 8.43 points or 0.68 percent to close at the day high of 1,256.96. It is up 23.42 percent so far this year.

Trade was confined to a six-point range, with turnover falling to P316.6 million from Monday's P359.4 million. Gainers edged out losers 27 to 26, with 30 issues unchanged.

"The turnover is an indication that people are staying out for the meantime until fresh developments come out," said Oliver Plana, head of sales at Asiasec Equities Inc. "The index will be confined to these levels unless we see stronger leads." The peso hit a fresh five-month low at 55.15 to the dollar in morning trade and was quoted at 55.12/15 at the midday break in local trade. It closed at 55.09 on Monday.

PLDT, which accounted for more than 13 percent of total trade, rose 2.88 percent or P15 to P535. The company's American Depositary Receipts listed in New York gained 1.04 percent on Monday.

Mall developer SM Prime Holdings Corp., the second most actively traded stock, gained 1.75 percent to P5.80. *Reuters*

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Imports . . .

From page B1

plained.

There was a scramble to beef up inventory in the early part of the year in order to hedge against escalating costs arising from the uncertainties in the Middle East.

For the month of June, earnings from exports amounted to $3.06 billion or 4.2 percent higher than last year, resulting in a balance of trade surplus of $139 million, a turnaround from the deficit of $86 million in the same period last year.

While the purchases of raw materials slowed down in June, the country's imports of capital goods—led by telecommunication equipment and electrical machinery—increased by 2.8 percent from a year ago to $1.15 billion while the bill for consumer goods likewise rose by 3.4 percent to $105.22 million.

Meanwhile, expenditures for mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials went down by 18.7 percent to $236.02 million in June from the same period last year.

Japan and the US were still the country's top sources of imports, respectively accounting for 21.6 percent and 18.6 percent of the total bill for June.

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Cocktales

From page B3

standing-of-sorts save for the proverbial devil in the details that is keeping both parties from actually signing the documents.

Din over gin

THE POBLADOR Bautista and Reyes law firm is representing Ginebra San Miguel in the infringement suit it filed against Ginebra Kapitan. It is not immediately clear which law firm would represent Lucio Tan's Ginebra Kapitan, the suit having been filed only last Friday.

Incidentally, ginebra, which the San Miguel camp is claiming to have a franchise over in the same vein it claimed the word "beer"—including over the allegedly confusingly similar design of bottles—during the Beer na Beer fight in the late '80s, is the Spanish word for "gin."

Spelled with an uppercase, "Ginebra" is Spanish for "Geneva."

Heard through the grapevine

SEN. Panfilo Lacson's source for the cancelled checks and photos of Mike Arroyo came from a disgruntled employee/s working right within the First Gentleman's office in LTA building.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Aug. 19, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	15,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18	18	18	18	10,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46	46	46	46	725,600
China Banking Corp.	640	640	640	640	140
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	221,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	31.5	30.5	31.5	230,300
Philippine National Bank	26	26	26	26	19,000
Security Bank Corp.	19	19.25	19	19	256,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	25.5	26	25.5	26	44,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	7,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1610	1610	1610	1610	600
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	350,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1190	1190	1180	1185	350
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24	24.25	23.5	24.25	89,400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	240,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	650	655	640	650	7,470
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.0525	0.055	0.0525	0.055	7,700,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.055	0.0525	0.0525	32,700,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	2,820,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	530	535	530	535	79,980
Ivantage Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	3,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	12.25	12.5	12.25	12.5	201,400
Manila Electric Co. B	18.5	18.5	18.25	18.25	1,104,200
Petron Corp.	2.02	2.02	2	2.02	3,024,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.36	1.38	1.36	1.36	6,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.05	3.1	3.05	3.1	3,391,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	60,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.71	0.72	0.71	0.71	2,060,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	5,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31.5	31.5	31	31	36,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17	17.5	17	17.5	260,100
San Miguel Corp. A	54	54.5	53.5	54.5	56,600
San Miguel Corp. B	63	63	63	63	309,900
Universal Robina Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	10,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.47	0.47	0.44	0.44	210,000
Ayala Corp.	4.75	4.75	4.6	4.6	7,067,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.037	0.037	0.036	0.036	900,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.009	0.0085	0.009	379,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.66	1.72	1.66	1.7	22,000
ATR Kim Eng Fin. Corp.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	2,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.6	0.64	0.59	0.61	24,340,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.19	0.195	0.19	0.195	600,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	300,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.035	600,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	30,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.25	17.25	316,600
Global Equities Inc.	0.13	0.135	0.13	0.135	100,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	50,000
Ionics Inc.	1.4	1.44	1.38	1.42	913,000
J.G. Summit Holdings, Inc.	1.8	1.82	1.8	1.82	34,000
Medco Holdings	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.75	0.78	0.75	0.78	3,500,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	610,000
Music Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	850,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.24	0.27	1,660,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	10,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION& TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	5,000
Pryce Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	600,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	16.25	16.25	13.75	13.75	51,200
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	510,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	280,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	140,000
Manila Jockey Club	8	8	8	8	10,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	350,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	24	24.5	24	24.5	181,900
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.5	4,105,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	210,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	450,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.22	0.225	2,970,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.02	1.02	0.99	1	7,048,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.19	0.205	0.19	0.205	360,000
SM Development Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	5,795,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	50,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	60,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	200,000
Omico Corp.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	6,000,000
OIL					
Pacifica	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	3,000,000

DISCLOSURES

FIRST Abacus Financial Holdings Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 16, 8 a.m. at the Via Mare Penthouse, PSE Center, Pasig City. Only stockholders of record as of Aug. 19 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

JASMIN Castro's temporary replacement as compliance officer of **A. Brown Co. Inc.** will be Milagros Yu and Antonio Soriano.

* * *

ACESITE (Philippines) Hotel Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 20, 4 p.m. at the Nautilus I Function Room of Manila Pavilion Hotel. Mario Eugene Lim was nominated as director of the company.

* * *

CYBER Bay Corp. further postponed its annual stockholders' meeting to November.

* * *

SAN Miguel Corp. disclosed the resignation of Naomichi Asano as director and the subsequent election of Hitoshi Oshima as replacement.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Active Alliance Inc.** were Lincoln Le Chuen Chen, Godofredo Galindez Jr., Renato Reyes, Cesar Anton Galindez, Christine Base, Mario Tongson and Tirso Tardecilla.

* * *

MABUHAY Holdings Corp. divested its entire 3.7 million shares of stock in Ezyhealth Asia Pacific Pte. Ltd. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

August 19, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.896700	1.000000	55.055000
Japan	Yen	0.007507	0.008372	0.460900
United Kingdom	Pound	1.426919	1.591300	87.609000
Hongkong	Dollar	0.114977	0.128222	7.059300
Switzerland	Franc	0.645852	0.720254	39.653600
Canada	Dollar	0.645154	0.719476	39.610800
Singapore	Dollar	0.512400	0.571429	31.460000
Australia	Dollar	0.588424	0.656211	36.127700
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.378641	2.652661	146.042300
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.239120	0.266667	14.681400
Brunei	Dollar	0.510941	0.569801	31.370400
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000106	0.000118	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021566	0.024050	1.324100
UAE	Dirham	0.244160	0.272287	14.990800
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.115200	61.397300
ArgentinaPeso	0.309741	0.345423	19.017300	
Brazil	Real	0.300000	0.334560	18.419200
Denmark	Kroner	0.134520	0.150017	8.259200
India	Rupee	0.019591	0.021848	1.202800
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.236005	0.263193	14.490100
Mexico	New Peso	0.083112	0.092687	5.102900
New Zealand	Dollar	0.525277	0.585789	32.250600
Norway	Kroner	0.119921	0.133736	7.362800
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015551	0.017343	0.954800
South Africa	Rand	0.123216	0.137410	7.565100
Korea	Won	0.000761	0.000849	0.046700
Sweden	Kroner	0.107947	0.120382	6.627600
Syria	Pound	0.021350	0.023810	1.310900
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026189	0.029206	1.607900
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000562	0.000627	0.034500

INTEREST RATES

August 19, 2003-MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 19-Aug-03	MART1 18-Aug-03
1 Month	5.8232	5.8714
3 Months	5.8125	5.9375
6 Months	6.3661	6.8268
1 Year	8.0125	8
2 Years	9.5317	9.5214
3 Years	10.1183	10.1071
4 Years	10.4567	10.4232
5 Years	10.7083	10.6804
7 Years	11.4367	11.4304
10 Years	11.8643	11.8571
20 Years	12.1417	12.1339
25 Years	12.4683	12.4661

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

BSP chief's suspension worries US businessmen

EXECUTIVES of US businesses in the Philippines yesterday expressed concern over a one-year suspension given to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

Buenaventura has remained in his post and has announced plans to appeal the appellate court ruling last week that suspended him without pay for a year due to his decision to shutter a troubled bank three years ago.

"The Philippine American Chamber of Commerce expresses its full support for Governor Rafael Buenaventura and expresses concern over the one-year suspension meted out by the Court of Appeals in connection with the closing of Urban Bank in 2000," the chamber said in a statement.

It said the Ombudsman had previously determined that the governor had "acted properly with respect to the closing of Urban Bank. In our view, the closure was made in compliance with the conventional wisdom dictating the norms of sound financial supervision and overall financial stability."

The chamber said Buenaventura "has played a key role in the Philippines' growing macroeconomic health through the (central bank's) stabilization of interest rates and skillful management of foreign exchange reserves.

"The level of respect commanded by Governor Buenaventura among international investors is one of the essential foundations for the long-term prospects of the Philippine economy."

The chamber includes many of the largest US companies and financial institutions with business interests in the Philippines, as well as Filipino companies and banks with interests in the United States.

Since last week, the peso has been sliding partly in reaction to the court order suspending Buenaventura. *AFP*

Peso closes . . .

From page B1

Since the start of the year, the local currency has shed 2.8 percent of its value, making it the region's worst performer for the year.

The peso opened at 55.08 and fell to a low of 55.15 before closing three centavos weaker from P55.09 Monday. Volume of $103.2 million was slightly higher than the previous day's $82.6 million although traders were divided as to whether the central bank sold dollars.

Traders said financial markets were waiting in vain for positive developments particularly on the political front that would reverse investors' dimming sentiments on the Philippines.

Wick Veloso, deputy treasurer of HSBC Corp., said an increasing number of investors had been selling their Philippine bonds to bring their dollar investments elsewhere.

Veloso said investors were worried over a string of negative developments starting from the escape of international terrorist Al-Ghozi followed by the July 27 failed uprising and capped by the one-year suspension of BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

Allegations by Sen. Panfilo Lacson that the First Gentleman had amassed P270 million to bankroll his wife's presidential bid and hid the money in bank accounts again made investors even more jittery.

But more than an improving fiscal performance and increasing surplus in external payments, investors wanted political issues resolved at this point, according to a trader from a foreign bank.

"The questions that needed to be answered would be the issue on the central bank governor's suspension, whether another mutiny is possible, and whether political mudslinging would ease before the May 2004 elections," said a trader from a foreign bank.

The central bank said there were more dollar inflow in July as reflected by a $377-million surplus in the country's balance-of-payments position.

But the foreign exchange inflow would be hard to sustain if investors would be converting their pesos into dollars while political uncertainties remained. *Clarissa S. Batino*

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Editor Aries Espinosa

Teaching teachers teach about the environment

CHILDREN are taught to learn how to read and write in school, but are they being taught to care about the environment, particularly our water resources?

With this concern in mind, the Center for Environmental Awareness and Education has embarked on a training program that would provide formal and non-formal educators in the country with effective and creative techniques to bring the wonders and concerns of water into the hands and minds of children.

Jukka Holopainen, CEAE executive director, said the goal is to help educators integrate environmental education into the school curriculum or activities in order to familiarize the youth about the dwindling water resources and the need to properly care for it.

Dubbed as Project WET (Water Education for Teachers), the training program has reached Nueva Vizcaya, Cebu, Ozamiz City, Mountain Province and Palawan. Currently, over 700 participants and schools have benefited from Project WET.

But with a new partnership that the Project WET team has forged with Nestle Waters Philippines, it is expected to expand the initiative to more areas. Nestle Waters has recently awarded a grant to the group to expand Project WET to more areas and indigenize the curriculum content.

Originating in the United States and spread to Mexico, Canada and now the Philippines, Project WET offers innovative methods of teaching general subjects such as English, the Arts, Math and History using the environment, particularly water and its different forms, as the window to the world.

A Project WET seminar was held recently at the Ateneo de Manila University and sponsored by Nestle Waters Philippines with teachers from different Metro Manila schools as participants.

Participants of the workshop were introduced to the Project WET Curriculum and Activity Guide, a collection of exciting water resource activities. The workbook is particularly useful to classroom teachers, resource managers, museum educators and anyone interested in environmental education. It provides a collection of activity-based lesson plans as well as some of the newest educational reform tools focusing on the teacher as a facilitator for learning.

Holopainen is excited about the partnership with Nestle Waters, as he expressed confidence that with the support, the Project WET team will be able to reach more teachers, which will in turn reach more children, and inculcate in them the importance of caring for our country's water resources.

SHELL SELECT CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Shell Select marked its 10th year in the Philippines with a grand celebration held recently at the Makati Sports Club Ballroom. Select dealers nationwide, together with suppliers, joined Shell Select officers and staff for a whole-day affair of teambuilding activities and awarding ceremonies. The first Shell Select stores were built in 1993. In 10 years, over 60 Shell Select convenience stores were established. Shown are Cup of Excellence grand winners Alberto Naidas and wife Rona of K-Mart Food Store, Bajada, Davao, together with (from left) Shell Select's product category manager Precy Serrano, convenience retailing territory manager (CRTM) Darwin Astraquillo, merchandise and logistics manager Miguel Suterio, CRTM Cholo Francisco, Pilipinas Shell vice president for retail sales Cesar Romero, Shell Select product category manager Steff Cua, product masterfile analyst Millicent Ngo, and product category manager Archie Arceno.

SUN LIFE FINANCIAL CROWNS MISS SUN MILADY 2003

The second year participation of Sun Life Financial at the Magayon Festival in Bicol reached a new high with the crowning of Karen Ortua as Miss Sun Milady 2003. Sun Life Financial began its sponsorship of the Magayon Festival last year when it opened the month-long celebration with a concert featuring singer-songwriter Lou Bonnevie and by supporting the Bb. Magayon beauty pageant via the Miss Sun Milady special award. Sun Milady and Sun Milady Plus are insurance packages designed specifically to meet women's needs. Shown, from left, are Sun Life Financial head of sales Rolando Robles, Miss Sun Milady 2003 Karen Ortua, Miss Sun Milady 2002 Lanelle Quirona, and Molave new business manager Josephine McLaren at the Bb. Magayon 2003 beauty pageant.

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In 2002 alone, the company received over 50 awards. Here are some of the financial publications that consistently recognize the bank's global expertise and innovative products and services.

Finance Asia and Asiamoney, two prestigious business and banking publications in the region, named Citibank the Best Foreign Bank and Best Regional Cash Management Bank in the Philippines, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, China, Indonesia, New Zealand, Thailand, Australia, Hong Kong, and India.

For the whole of Asia, Euromoney named Citibank the Best Bank and Best Transactional Bank, Asiamoney conferred the award of Best Derivatives Bank, Best Cash Management Bank, and Best Services Performance of Major Global Custodians, while Global Finance named Citibank the World's Best Internet Bank, World's Best Corporate/Institutional Bank, and World's Best Online Cash Management Bank.

Citibank's consistent excellence awards, according to respondents in the Asiamoney global custody poll, were due to the company's strong commitment to servicing clients.

One proof is the bank's newly launched Financial Check-up service, which offers a comprehensive examination of a client's financial standing, risks and potentials-all for free. By availing themselves of the financial check-up, clients are given the opportunity to meet Citibank's Investment Consultants-highly qualified financial specialists armed with the right tools and ready to discuss investment strategies available through Citibank's global network to help clients meet their financial goals.

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Standard Chartered

STANDARD CHARTERED'S NEW PRODUCTS LAUNCHED

UK-based Standard Chartered Bank affirmed its confidence on the growth of consumer banking in the country by launching two new products for the emerging strong middle class: the EZ Loan Cash Loan and the Axcessplus Reloadable Card. EZ Loan is a no-collateral cash loan aimed to serve the financial needs of salaried employees and self-employed professionals. Axcessplus is a reloadable cash card powered by Visa Electron and internationally accepted in over 8 million merchants and thousands of BancNet/MegaLink and Visa Electron ATMs. Shown during the recent product launch are Sherazam Mazari, group head of consumer banking (left), and Ajay Kanwal, head of consumer banking, Philippines.

UNLEASH YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL

During the crucial age of 3 to 6 years, the brain neurons of a child are being wired, thereby allowing it to form connections. As in any kind of growth, the brain needs to be nurtured at the early stages of life so as to fully develop its capabilities for future learning. This is why at Britesparks International School (BIS), children are challenged to think productively while simultaneously developing their communication and leadership skills. Emphasis is on accelerating the child's overall learning capabilities and enhancing their skills for children of all abilities. As shown above, BIS provides programs that promote development of the physical and sensory skills, enhance problem solving and critical thinking, builds self-confidence and pro-social behavior. Britesparks' new location is soon to open at 100 Katipunan Avenue, White Plains, Quezon City. For more information, call 912-0669, or visit www.britesparksintl.com.

NFA inks P3-B credit line with PNB

THE NATIONAL Food Authority has sufficient funds for procurement this coming main harvest following the renewal of its credit line with the Philippine National Bank.

NFA Administrator Arthur C. Yap said that aside from renewing its credit line with the bank the NFA was also able to increase its credit ceiling from P1.2 billion to P3 billion, giving the agency a stronger financial capability to buy the farmers produce starting October.

Yap signed the agreement with PNB first vice president for government banking division Alfonso C. Tanseco.

The agency's credit line, which carries a national government guarantee, will be used to finance grains procurement, farmers development assistance and other propoor priority programs of the agency.

"With the funds at our disposal, we are in a better position to buy from the farmers to give them better income from their investments," Yap said.

Aside from providing the farmers with a ready market for their produce, the NFA's buying price is being used by traders as a benchmark serving as a trigger mechanism to push the price of palay up.

The NFA buys palay at P9 per kilo for the main harvest exclusive of the ₱50 per kilo incentives for drying, transport and cooperative development fund.

For this year's main cropping, the NFA is targeting to buy 394,980 metric tons or 7.8 million bags of palay to increase the country's food security buffer. As of Aug. 10, the NFA has a total of 12.2 million bags in rice equivalent consisting of 9 million bags imported, 1.2 million bags local rice and 3.1 million bags of palay. The stocks of the NFA is being augmented by the incoming rice imports from Thailand, totaling 3.3 million bags.

The rice imports are already in transit and expected to arrive in the country before the onset of the main harvest so as not to dampen the price of local palay.

Philips dominates 23rd annual Quality Circle Regional Convention

EMPLOYEES of Philips Semiconductors Philippines staged a superb display of their mettle and talents during the 23rd annual Quality Circle Regional Convention held in Makati City by winning a majority of the special prizes.

A total of 56 teams from different companies participated in the event, competing in the production, non-production, team and quality song (original and adaptation) categories. Philips was the best-represented and well-supported company, fielding in 10 teams from PS Calamba and PSPI Cabuyao.

The teams made Philips proud by presenting their improvement projects with remarkable enthusiasm and answering the difficult questions from the jury members impressively.

At the end of the convention, Philips walked away with awards in Best Presentation/Non-Production "MTV Team" (PS Calamba), Best Presentation/Team "Stream Team" (PS Calamba), Best Visual/Production "Team 180" (PSPI Cabuyao), Best Original Costume "MB Magic" (PS Calamba), Most Innovative/Production "Team 180" (PSPI Cabuyao), Most Innovative/Non-Production "MTV Team" (PS Calamba), Most Innovative/Team "Mission X" (PSPI Cabuyao), Most Active Sponsor Philips Makati, Most Management

Support PSPI Cabuyao and Most Delegates PSPI Cabuyao.

Moreover, the following were declared Gold Winners and will represent Philips in the National Finals scheduled on Sept 18 and 19 in Bacolod City: Original Quality Song "Power Cuts 2" from PSPI-Cbuyao (Power Factory) and Adaptation Quality Songs "Ketshoppe Boys" from PSPI-Calamba Engineering and "The Mega 5" from PSPI Cabuyao BCBS factory.

5-DAY WORKSHOP'S CONCLUSION

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), in association with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Picpa) launched in May the Train the Trainers on IAS project. This project aims to escalate the full adoption of the International Accounting Standards (IAS) in the Philippines. The SEC, with the financial aid of the ADB, developed the 'train the trainers' project. To facilitate the realization of the project, the Picpa formed a task force to select the participants of the project. A group of 60 CPAs were chosen nationwide. These CPAs underwent 5-day training workshops on IAS conducted by ADB consultants. Two 5-day training workshops were scheduled-on in Manila and another in Cebu. These 'trained trainers' will spearhead the nationwide rollout of the IAS to meet the country's commitment to fully adopt IAS by 2005.

French Baker receives Asia-Pacific Excellence Award

IN RECOGNITION of its quality performance, products, as well as corporate excellence in service, features and price affordability based on opinion surveys and standard award criteria of consumer products and companies, The French Baker recently received an Asia-Pacific Excellence Award as Outstanding Bakeshop. This, after the Asia-Pacific Awards Council, together with the National Consumers Affairs Foundation, jointly based the award on the overall performance of companies located in any of the countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Given during the 2003 joint annual presentation of the Asia-Pacific Consumers Excellence Awards and the Handog Kay Inay Mother's Day celebration held at the Ateneo Theater, the award reinforces The French Baker's brand and product leadership in the industry.

Criteria for the awards include public service, product or service quality, actual demonstrations, pricing, and general public opinion based on public satisfaction.

To date, The French Baker has 27 stores in Metro Manila, Pampanga, and Metro Cebu. Its array of products include a fine selection of bromate and preservative-free breads and pastries, St. Dalfour Organic teas, Tchibo coffees, and cooked-to-order meals.

Garments exports hit $1.7B as of July, up 6.5%

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S garments and textile sector posted higher export earnings in July, hitting $309 million or 14 percent higher than the $271 million recorded during the same period last year, the Department of Trade and Industry reported yesterday.

This translated to $1.7-billion export earnings for the first seven months of the year, or 6.5 percent higher than the $1.6 billion registered in the same period last year.

The garments and textile export sector brings in the country's second biggest exports following electronics.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II said in a statement the improved export performance of the industry could be attributed to the significant investments infused by the sector in technology and skills upgrading.

He also said the rise in garments exports indicated that the industry would perform well in 2005, when quota for garments would be phased out as the sector becomes more open to free trade.

Industry analysts said the increased export earnings were signs consumer spending in the country's foreign markets was on the rise as the jitters brought about by the US-Iraq war and the SARS scare have waned.

Apparel exports to both quota and non-quota markets registered a 64-percent increase to $279 million from $170 million in July last year. For the January-to-July period, earnings from apparel rose 8.8 percent to $1.48 billion from $1.36 billion posted a year earlier.

Non-apparel exports, meanwhile, suffered from losses in both major and emerging markets due to heightened competition and price drops. Revenue from the sub-sector stood at only $17 million, or 80 percent lower than the $89 million in July last year.

For the first seven months of the year, export receipts totaled $136 million, a 28-percent drop from $174 million a year ago.

For textile, exports rose 45 percent to $82 million from $57 million during the same period last year.

The United States remained the country's biggest garments market, accounting for $238 million worth of export volume, which is 17.5-percent higher than the $203 million recorded earlier. Export to the United States also rose 6.7 percent for the first seven months of the year to $1.26 billion from $1.17 billion during the same period last year.

The European Union and Canada were also major markets for Philippine garments, together accounting for $249 million of export revenue, or 24 percent higher than last year's $221 million.

Flying V to sell bio-diesel

By Ronnel W. Domingo

INDEPENDENT local oil firm Flying V said it had earmarked about P13 million as initial investment for the distribution of bio-diesel in select service stations pending talks with local government units on perking up markets for the product.

Flying V consultant William Hain said in an interview that the move was made as the company signed an agreement with the US Agency for International Development supporting its Clean City program.

Hain said the USAid had committed to complement Flying V's planned investments with an information campaign on the benefits of using bio-diesel.

He said the agency chose to work with Flying V because of its pioneering and aggressive ventures in the use of alternative fuels.

"This company was the first to promote commercially the use of alco-gas (a blend of alcohol and gasoline), with the aim of minimizing pollution caused by gasoline-power vehicles." Hain explained.

He said Flying V was able to sell alco-gas in 2001 and 2002, until the company that was making the fuel had problems with its own supplies.

"We are currently in talks with the Davao City government on ways of jointly promoting bio-diesel. If and when we finalize things, we are ready to immediately put up pumps and tanks in at least four stations there within this year."

Hain added that if Flying V was able to make similar arrangements in Metro Manila authorities, the firm was committed to sell bio-diesel in all of its 10 stations in the metropolis.

"Bio-diesel would cost 35-40 centavos per liter more than the price of diesel, but we may have a market if there would be an active campaign against smoke-belching," Hain said.

He cited studies made by the Philippine Coconut Authority as well as the Asian Institute of Petroleum Studies, which showed that bio-diesel produces lower emissions of harmful gases than ordinary diesel.

In a related development, local oil companies last week signed with the energy and environment departments an agreement to introduce cleaner diesel two months ahead of the law-mandated schedule of Jan. 1, 2004.

Fernando Martinez, chair of the Independent Petroleum Companies Association, said the new diesel with lower sulfur content would cost between 10 centavos and 40 centavos more per liter, but that it was up to each of the oil firms on how much they would pass on to consumers.

The Clean Air Act of 1999 states that starting Jan. 1, diesel sold in the country should contain no more than 0.05 percent sulfur by volume.

The previous cap for sulfur content was 0.2 percent.

CA junks SEC desist order vs Prosperity

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE COURT of Appeals has reversed the Securities and Exchange Commission's cease and desist order against alleged pyramid scheme operator Prosperity.com Inc., but upheld a similar order against Power Homes Unlimited Corp.

It may be recalled that on Jan. 26, 2001, the SEC issued CDOs against Prosperity.com and PowerHomes directing them to stop the unauthorized sale of unregistered securities, specifically investment contracts.

Both companies used a multi-level marketing system, which SEC officials said were akin to illegal pyramid schemes.

In a decision promulgated on July 31, 2003, the CA first division led by Associate Justice Eloy Bello Jr. noted: "While Prosperity.com Inc. offers a product for sale, Powerhomes Unlimited Corp. has no product to speak of."

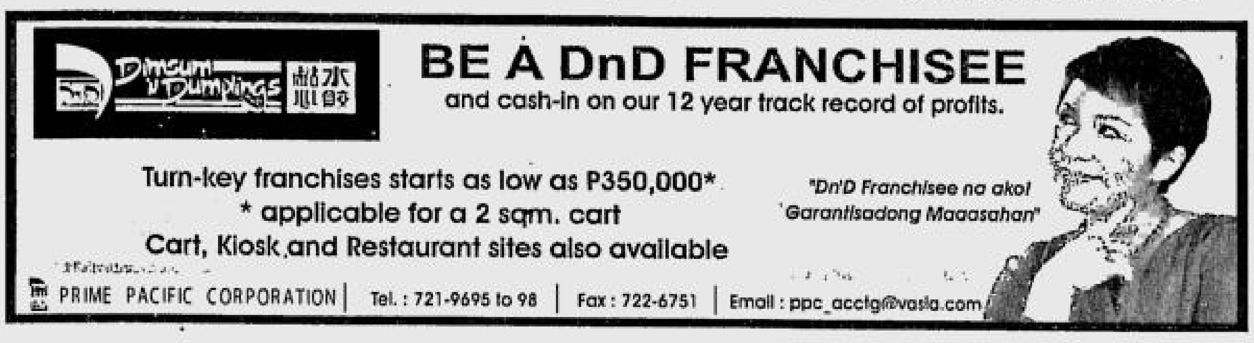
As a result, the CA division granted Prosperity.com's petition for certiorari and accordingly reversed and set aside the SEC's CDO against the company.

On the other hand, the CA denied for lack of merit Powerhomes' similar petition to reverse the CDO.

The CA noted that based on the evidence, Prosperity.Com was engaged in the hosting or sale of its main product, which is Web space. Each Web space was sold for $234.

"Although it is true that additional profits or bonuses are derived from the effort of buyers who are able to sell Web spaces to two other buyers as well as the sale closed by these two buyers to two other buyers, it does not erase the fact that petitioner also derives profits from the sale of its main product, which is Web space," the CA noted.

In the scheme of Powerhomes, on the other hand, an investor was required to become a business center owner who must fill up and sign its application form.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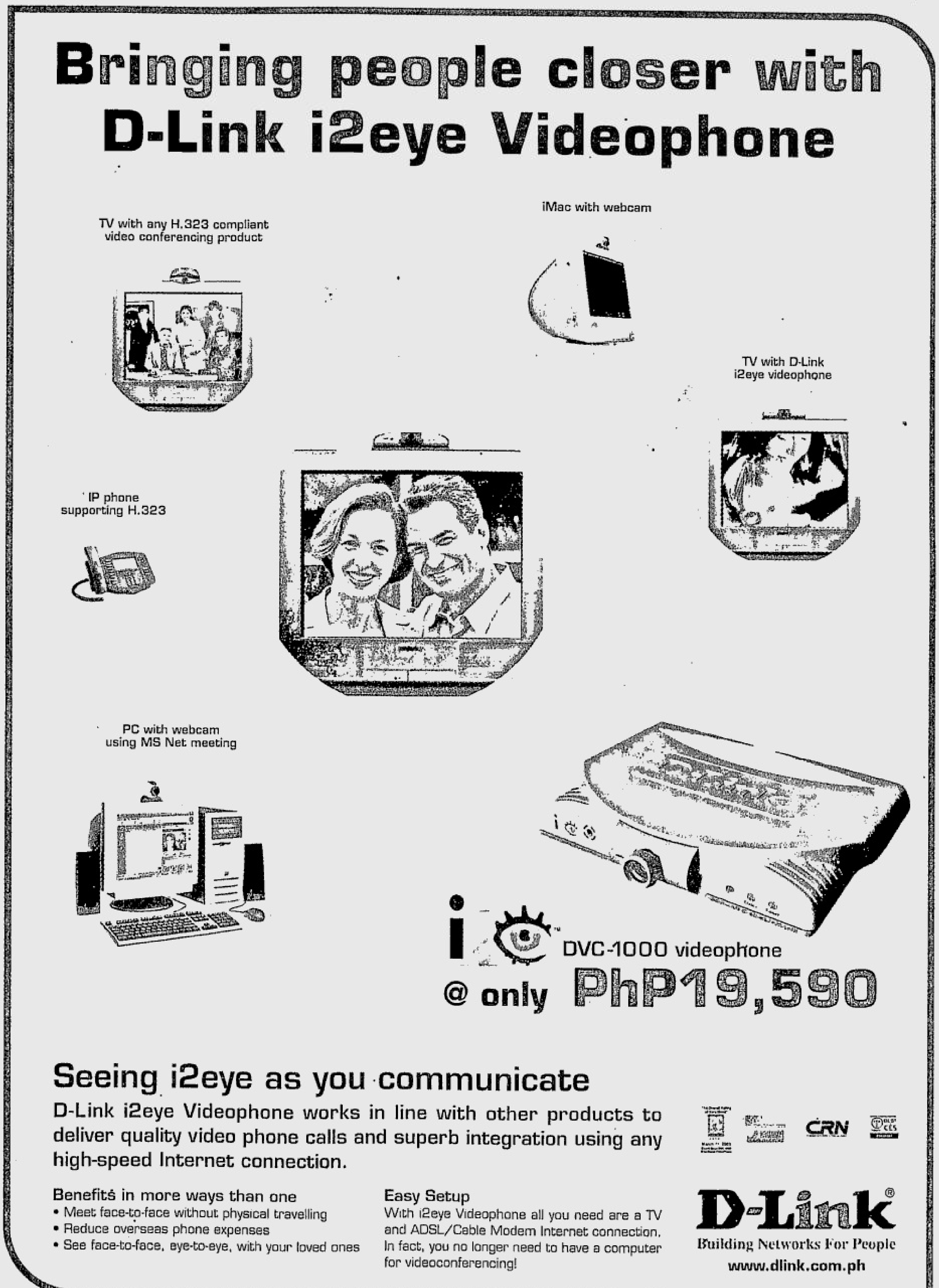
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Thinking Tools, Inc	254-2227
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Worldtel Iloilo	336-8870/335-1142
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Creative Technologies	400-4222
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All Electronics	811-3624/25
PASAY (+02)	
Micrnfix Computer Sys.	851-5996
QUEZON CITY (+02)	
NT Computer Mart	927-2570
Silicon Valley	371-5614

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AYALA CINEMAS PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 NOON AT NGAYON	A VIEW FROM THE TOP	ArtFilm 1 CINEMANILA	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 LXG 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	THX 1 THE ITALIAN JOB
2 THE ITALIAN JOB	2 ALEX & EMMA	2 CINEMANILA	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 THE ITALIAN JOB 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20	2 A VIEW FROM THE TOP
3 LXG	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 LXG 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30	APO HIKING SOCIETY & HOTDOG - BACK2BACK Aug 28 - 9PM	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 FINDING NEMO 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30	3 LXG
4 KEKA	4 BAD BOYS II		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 ALEX & EMMA 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30	4 ALEX & EMMA
	5 FINDING NEMO		GUARANTEED SEATS A VIEW FROM THE TOP 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30	5 FINDING NEMO
	6 THE ITALIAN JOB			
	7 NOON AT NGAYON			

For sreening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOLBY) ITALIAN JOB
2 (SDDS) FINDING NEMO
3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
5 (GOLD)(DOLBY EX) ITALIAN JOB
6 (GOLD)(SDDS) VIEW FROM THE TOP
7 (GOLD)(DOLBY EX) ALEX & EMMA
8 KEKA
9 NOON AT NGAYON
10 BAD BOYS - 2

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 (DTS) RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DTS) RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA 1 2 & 3
(Pasay) tel 833.3290, 833.3274

1 KEKA
2 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
3 NENA INOCCENTE

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1 NOON AT NGAYON
2 ALEX & EMMA
3 VISIBLE SECRET
4 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
5 NENA INOCCENTE

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1 KEKA
2 NENA INOCCENTE
3 A VIEW FROM THE TOP
4 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
5 VISIBLE SECRET
6 ITALIAN JOB

M Star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel 873.5004

1 THE IN LAWS
2 SNAKE LADY

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 893-4225, 892-2503

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 BAD BOYS-2
2

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL Inc
tel 930.9515

1
2
3

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) TEL. 776-74-21

1 NENA INOCCENTE
2 PROSTI
3
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS) NENA INOCCENTE
4 RESERVE
5 ALEX & EMMA
6 KEKA
7 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
8 (SDDS) ITALIAN JOB
9 (DOLBY) A VIEW FROM THE TOP

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1 KEKA
2 NOON AT NGAYON
3 NENA INOCCENTE
4 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
5 VISIBLE SECRET
6 (DOLBY) ITALIAN JOB
7 (DTS) A VIEW FROM THE TOP
8 MOTEL
9 BULLET PROOF MONK

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082

1 NENA INOCCENTE
2 (SDDS) ITALIAN JOB
3 (DTS) A VIEW FROM THE TOP
4 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
5 KEKA

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1 KEKA
2 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
3 (DTS) ITALIAN JOB
4 NENA INOCCENTE
5 (SDDS) ALEX & EMMA

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 NENA INOCCENTE

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 RESERVE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson
Lords
Jennet RESERVE

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 NOON AT NGAYON
2 ITALIAN JOB
3 NENA INOCCENTE
4 ALEX & EMMA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 NENA INOCCENTE
3 A VIEW FROM THE TOP
4 KEKA
5 VISIBLE SECRET

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 NENA INOCCENTE
2 BULLET PROOF MONK

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821,8242,8400

1 KEKA
2 NOON AT NGAYON
3 (DOLBY SR-D) ITALIAN JOB
4 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
5 (DTS) FINDING NEMO
6 VIEW FROM THE TOP
7 ALEX & EMMA

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821,8242,8400

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) TEL. (049) 837-0926

1 KEKA
2 NOON AT NGAYON
3 (DTS) ITALIAN JOB

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 A VIEW FROM THE TOP
2 (DTS) NOON AT NGAYON
3 (DOLBY) ITALIAN JOB
4 KEKA

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 NOON AT NGAYON
2 (DOLBY) A VIEW FROM THE TOP
3 (DTS) ITALIAN JOB
4 KEKA

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 BAD BOYS-2
2 NOON AT NGAYON
3 (DOLBY)
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1 NOON AT NGAYON
2 BANGKOK HAUNTED
3 (DOLBY) BAD BOYS-2
4 LEAGUE EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY) BAD BOYS-2
2 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
3 NOON AT NGAYON

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)
2 NENA INOCENTE
3 (DTS) BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR
4

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) ITALIAN JOB
2 KEKA
3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 -
5 SNAKE LADY

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 KEKA
3 RESERVE

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 KEKA
3 A VIEW FROM THE TOP

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1 IMPOSTOR
2 NOON AT NGAYON
3 (DTS) BAD BOYS-2
4 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS) RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 WILD BUTTERFLY
2 NOON AT NGAYON
3 RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 NAKED WEAPON
2 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
3 NOON AT NGAYON
4 BAD BOYS-2

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY EX) ITALIAN JOB
2 NOON AT NGAYON
3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 FINDING NEMO

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121

1 NOON AT NGAYON
2 -
3 (DOLBY) - FINDING NEMO
4 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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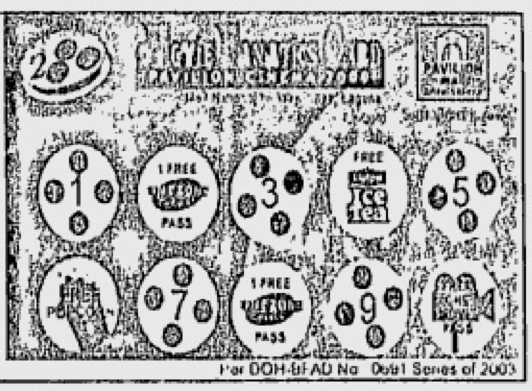

Per DOH-BFAD No. 0001 Series of 2003

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

1 NENA INOSENTE
2 FINDING NEMO
3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 VIEW FROM THE TOP
5 ITALIAN JOB
6 NOON AT NGAYON
7 KEKA
8 DARK WATER

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1 NOON AT NGAYON
2 VIEW FROM THE TOP
3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 KEKA
5 FINDING NEMO
6 NENA INOSENTE
7 BAD BOYS 2
8 ALEX & EMMA
9 ITALIAN JOB
10 VISIBLE SECRET

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2 BULLETPROOF MONK
3 VISIBLE SECRET
4 ITALIAN JOB
5 NOON AT NGAYON
6 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
7 FINDING NEMO
8 KEKA
9 ALEX & EMMA
10 NENA INOSENTE
11 BAD BOYS 2
12 VIEW FROM THE TOP

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1 ITALIAN JOB
2 FINDING NEMO
3 ALEX & EMMA
4 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
5 BAD BOYS 2
6 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
7 VIEW FROM THE TOP
8 NENA INOSENTE
9 NOON AT NGAYON
10 VISIBLE SECRET
11 BULLETPROOF MONK
12 KEKA

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
FOR SEAT RESERVATION CALL 6820636
2 FINDING NEMO
3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 ITALIAN JOB
5 BAD BOYS 2
6 ALEX & EMMA
7 VIEW FROM THE TOP
8 VISIBLE SECRET
9 NOON AT NGAYON
10 KEKA
11 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
12 NENA INOSENTE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1 BAD BOYS 2
2 FINDING NEMO
3 KEKA
4 NOON AT NGAYON
5 ALEX & EMMA
6 VIEW FROM THE TOP
7 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
8 ITALIAN JOB

SM SOUTHMALL
8066889

1 VIEW FROM THE TOP
2 VISIBLE SECRET
3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 ALEX & EMMA
5 FINDING NEMO
6 NENA INOSENTE
7 NOON AT NGAYON
8 ITALIAN JOB
9 BAD BOYS 2
10 KEKA

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 VIEW FROM THE TOP
3 FINDING NEMO
4 BANGKOK HAUNTED
5 SNAKE LADY
6 MOTEL
7 NOON AT NGAYON
8 ITALIAN JOB

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1 DARK WATER
2 RESERVED
3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 FINDING NEMO
5 NOON AT NGAYON
6 DUMB & DUMBERER
7 RESERVED
8 WILD BUTTERFLY

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 VIEW FROM THE TOP
3 FINDING NEMO
4 MOTEL
5 NAKED WEAPON
6 NOON AT NGAYON

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1 ITALIAN JOB
2 KEKA
3 NOON AT NGAYON
4 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 NOON AT NGAYON
3 KEKA
4 NENA INOSENTE

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 REAL CANCUN
3 DARK WATER
4 NOON AT NGAYON
5 VIEW FROM THE TOP
6 FINDING NEMO

SM BICUTAN
776-3065

1 ITALIAN JOB
2 KEKA
3 NOON AT NGAYON
4 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
859-2684

1 BULLETPROOF MONK
2 NOON AT NGAYON
3 FINDING NEMO
4 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

THE PODIUM CINEMA

18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
633-8976

1 ITALIAN JOB
11:40 MF/12:10/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:48 END

2 FINDING NEMO
11:00 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:50 END

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

Matinee : P100.00 • Screening until 6pm • Monday thru Friday
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Movies are subject to change without prior notice

MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS @ Robinsons Malls

NOW SHOWING

Galleria
632-9115 TO 16
633-7641 LOC. 195

THX /All Digital

1 ITALIAN JOB THX
2 VIEW FROM THE TOP
3 KEKA
4 ALEX AND EMMA
5 ITALIAN JOB
6 LXG
7 BAD BOYS 2
8 NOON AT NGAYON
9 FINDING NEMO
10 TOMB RAIDER 2

MATINEE PRICE:P90 THX cinema / P75 1 level cinema
Mon.- Fri. / 10am - 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita
536-717809 TO 13

1 ITALIAN JOB
2 FINDING NEMO
3 ALEX AND EMMA
4 KEKA
5 NOON AT NGAYON
6 VIEW FROM THE TOP
7 LXG

Metro East
Marcos hway
682-8193; 682-8199; 682-8280

1 ALEX AND EMMA
2 ITALIAN JOB
3 NENA INOSENTE
4 KEKA
5 VIEW FROM THE TOP
6 FINDING NEMO
7 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
8 NOON AT NGAYON

Novaliches
935-3229/31

1 ITALIAN JOB
2 ALEX AND EMMA
3 VIEW FROM THE TOP
4 KEKA
5 FINDING NEMO
6 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
7 NENA INOSENTE
8 NOON AT NGAYON

Malabon
Citisquare
288-0985
288-2575

1 NENA INOSENTE
2 ITALIAN JOB
3 KEKA
4 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

Star Mills
Sn. Fernando, Pamp.
(045) 875-1927
(045) 961-5270

1 NAKED WEAPON
2 NOON AT NGAYON
3 MOTEL
4 VIEW FROM THE TOP
5 FINDING NEMO
6 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

Imus
(046) 471-8188
(046) 875-5858

1 ITALIAN JOB
2 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
3 FINDING NEMO
4 VIEW FROM THE TOP
5 NOON AT NGAYON
6 FINDING NEMO

Sta. Rosa
Laguna
(049) 837-09-07

1 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 NOON AT NGAYON
3 ITALIAN JOB
4 KEKA
5 VIEW FROM THE TOP

Bacolod
(034) 441-0458-59

1 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 FINDING NEMO
3 VIEW FROM THE TOP
4 NOON AT NGAYON
5 NAKED WEAPON
6 SNAKE LADY

Iloilo
(033) 336-8070/78

1 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 DARK WATER
3 DUMB AND DUMBERER
4 FINDING NEMO
5 NOON AT NGAYON
6 WILD BUTTERFLY

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41

A VIEW FROM THE TOP **PG13** 11:50,1:50, 3:50, 5:50,7:50, 9:50	**FINDING NEMO** **GP** 12:30,2:45,5:00, 7:15,9:30	**ALEX & EMMA** **PG13** 1:20,3:30, 5:40,7:50, 10:00
LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN **PG13** 12:20,2:45,5:10,7:35,10:00	**NOON AT NGAYON** **PG13** 1:25,4:10,6:55, 9:40	**ITALIAN JOB** **R13** 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON TO FRI

THEATRE MALL

GREENHILLS

Cinema	Film
CINEMA 1	**LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN** 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:50 P13
CINEMA 2	**FINDING NEMO** 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 10:00 **GP**

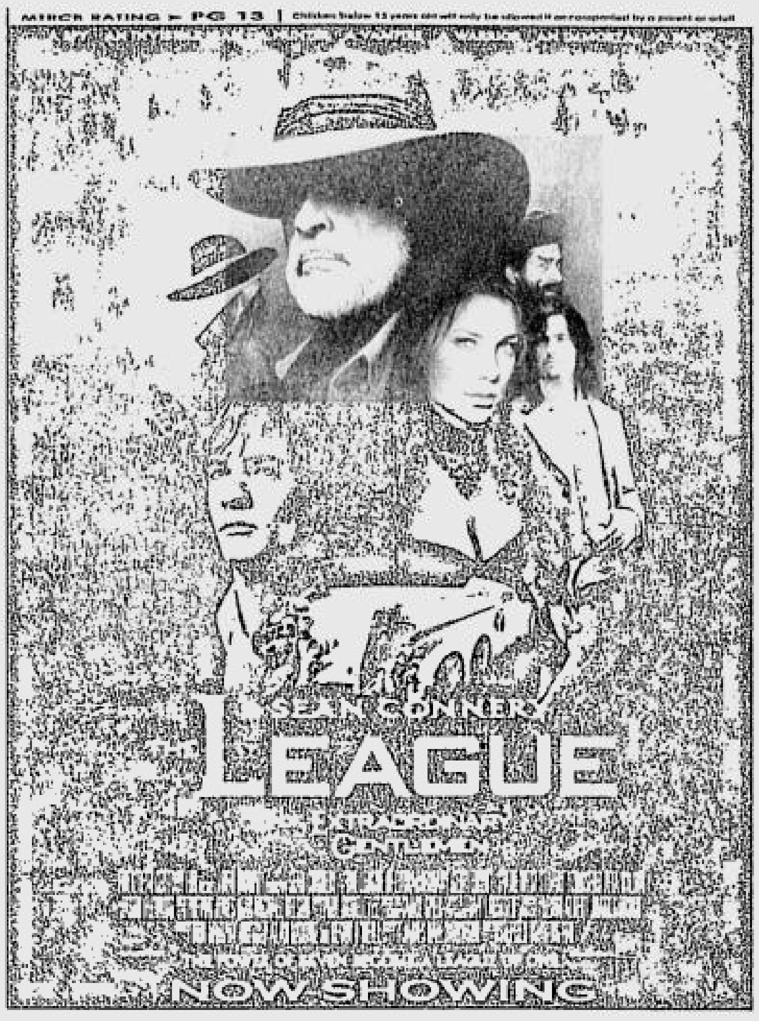
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

MUSIC MUSEUM

Date	Event	Time
AUG 22.23.29.30. 2003	GARY V. HITS MUSIC MUSEUM	9:00PM
AUG 19. 2003	MAY LEE IN CONCERT	8:30PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION PLS. CALL 721-6726 OR 721-0635

MTRCB RATING ► PG 13


SEAN CONNERY
LEAGUE
EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
NOW SHOWING

OPENS TOMORROW !

MTRCB RATING ► PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

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A NEW CHILLING TALE OF TERROR
Shu Qi
The Star of SO CLOSE is back...
VISIBLE SECRET
First comes the warning. Then comes the terror.
www.visiblesecret.com
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OPENS TODAY

MAGIC 89.9

MTRCB RATING ► PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

EVER WISH YOU COULD WRITE YOUR OWN LOVE STORY AND HAVE IT COME TRUE?

KATE HUDSON
LUKE WILSON

ALEX & EMMA

BROUGHT TO YOU BY Closeup

ARANETA CENTER ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Cinema	Film
Ali 1	KEKA
Ali 2	NOON AT NGAYON
Ali 3	ITALIAN JOB
Ali 4	LXG
Ali 5	FINDING NEMO
Ali 6	VIEW FROM THE TOP
Ali 7	ALEX AND EMMA

ARANETA COLISEUM

Date	Event
AUG 24	UAAP GAMES : FEU VS. ADMU
AUG 28	UAAP GAMES : UP VS. DLSU
AUG 30	UAAP GAMES : FEU VS. UE
SEPT 1	NCA 7-STAG DERBY
SEPT 3	NCA 7-STAG DERBY
SEPT 4	UAAP GAMES : ADMU VS. UST
Opens December 2003	**DISNEY ON ICE** Featuring "Beauty & The Beast"

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

Theater	Film
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	BIGLANG LIKO / YOUNG VIRGINS
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	NENA INOCENTE
B	SNAKE LADY
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	NOON AT NGAYON
CINEMA-2	NENA INOCENTE
CINEMA-3	BEHIND GREEN DOOR
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BAD BOYS 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-6	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
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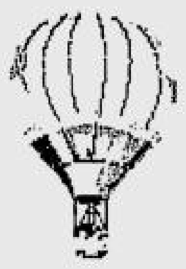
CINEMA-8	BABASAGIN KRISTAL
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	LXG
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ITALIAN JOB
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	FINDING NEMO
CINEMA-12	VIEW FROM THE TOP
CINEMA-14	ALEX & EMMA
CINEMA-15	NOON AT NGAYON
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	LXG
CINEMA-1	NOON AT NGAYON
CINEMA-2	IMPOSTOR
CINEMA-4	MOTEL
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA



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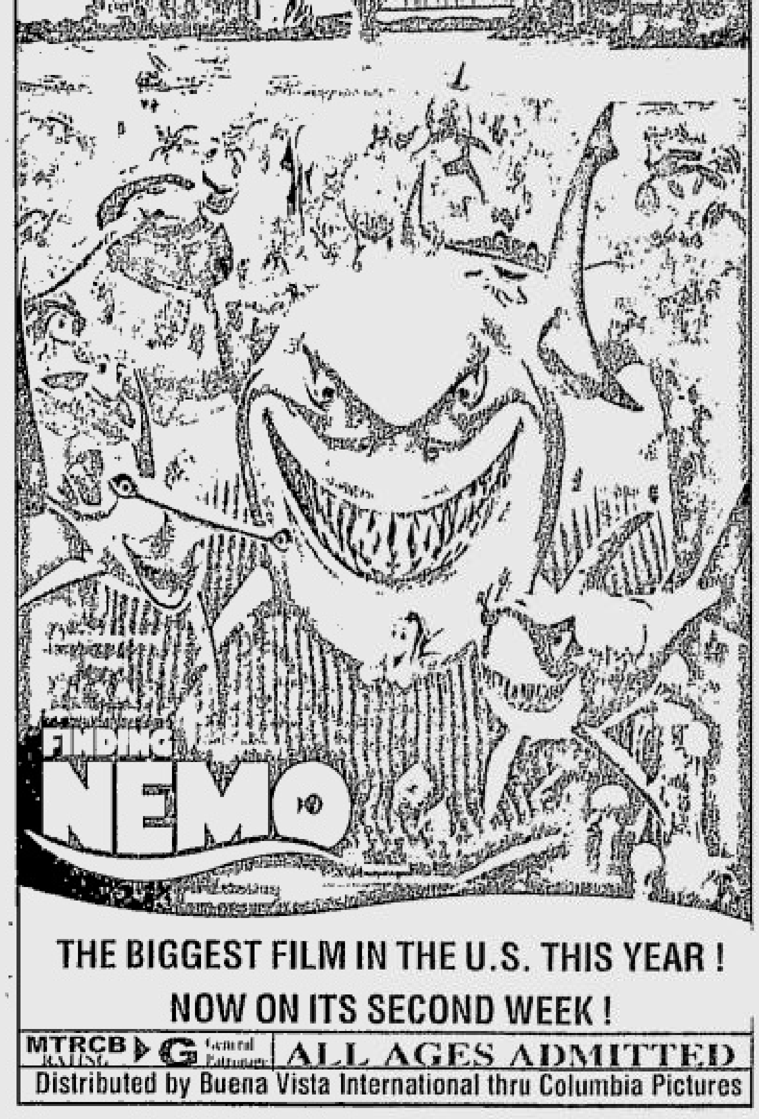
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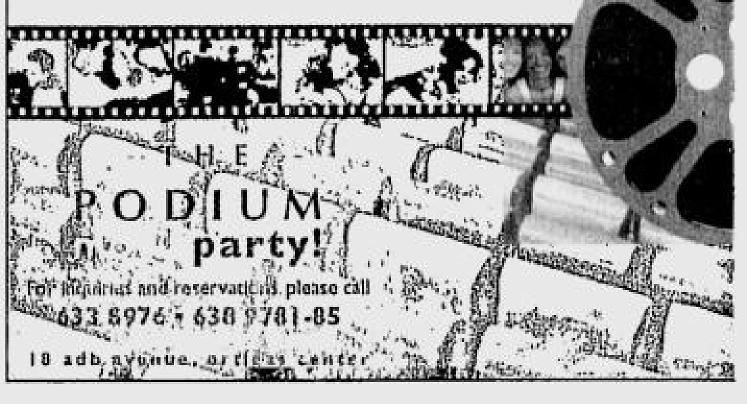
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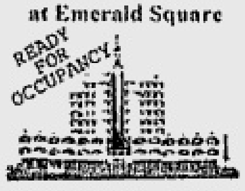

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Notice is hereby given of the extrajudicial settlement by the heirs of Corazon Carillo Galang who died intestate on July 16, 1998 in Quezon City MM registered in the Notarial Registry of N.P. Ana Garcia of San Juan, M.M. as Doc. No 252, Page No. 52, Book No 54, Series of 2003 on July 30, 2003 in compliance with the rules of court of the Phils. (PDI-Aug. 6, 13 & 20 2003)

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Republic of the Philippines
CITY COUNCIL
Manila
ORDINANCE NO. 8057

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING FURTHER TAX INCENTIVES TO OWNERS OR LESSEES OF BUILDINGS/STRUCTURES LOCATED ALONG AND/OR WITHIN QUEZON BOULEVARD, QUIAPO AREA, STA. CRUZ INCLUDING RIZAL AVENUE UP TO THE CITY LIMITS, ESCOLTA AND SAN NICOLAS AREA ON PAYMENT OF ADDITIONAL REALTY TAX ON IMPROVEMENTS OCCASIONED BY MAJOR REPAIRS, REHABILITATION OR RECONSTRUCTION OF EXISTING BUILDINGS/ STRUCTURES FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE (5) YEARS, UNDER CERTAIN TERMS AND CONDITIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Be it ordained by the City Council of Manila, THAT:

SECTION 1. Owners or lessees of existing buildings/structures located along and/or within Quezon Boulevard, Quiapo area, Sta. Cruz including Rizal Avenue up to the City limits, Escolta and San Nicolas area, are hereby imposed a basic rate of zero percent (0%) on the increase in the assessed value of the real property, comprising of buildings/structures or improvements occasioned by a major repairs rehabilitation or reconstruction of said edifices.

SEC. 2. As used herein, the terms major repairs or rehabilitation shall refer to restoration/improvement works of any building, to enhance its appearance and/or prolong its economic life, while the term reconstruction shall refer to construction of new building.

SEC. 3. The tax incentive herein granted, shall be for a period of five (5) years, to take effect on the first day of January of the succeeding year, following the date of issuance of a certificate of tax incentive.

SEC. 4. To avail of the tax incentive herein granted, owners or lessees are required to file within sixty (60) days after the completion of such repair, rehabilitation or reconstruction, a written application for grant of tax incentive before the Office of the City Assessor, accompanied by the following documents

a.) Certified True Copy of Transfer Certificate of Title, where the structure is to be repaired/rehabilitated/reconstructed
b.) Realty Tax Clearance for land and improvement
c.) Certified True Copy of Building Permit
d.) One (1) copy of approved plans and specifications
e.) Certified True Copy of Occupancy Permit
f.) Certified True Copy of Demolition Permit, in case of new construction
g.) Certified True Copy of Contract of Lease, in case the owner of building is not the owner of lot.

SEC. 5. The City Assessor shall process the application and forward the same to the City Mayor with his comment(s) and/or recommendation(s), for proper disposition. Once the City Mayor approves the application, the grantee shall be issued a Certificate of Tax Incentive signed by the City Mayor. All other provisions and implementing rules and regulations pertaining to the issuance of tax declarations shall remain the same.

SEC. 6. The City Assessor shall likewise determine the assessed value of the buildings/structures as mentioned under Section 1 hereof, to be used as basis for taxation after the expiration of the period of tax incentive.

SEC. 7. The tax incentive herein granted, shall apply to improvements with minimum construction costs of ONE MILLION PESOS (Php 1,000,000.00), as per building permit(s) to be issued by the Office of the Building Official upon the effectivity of this Ordinance: PROVIDED, That the period of availment through written application of his tax incentive shall terminate on December 31, 2005.

SEC. 8. Any tax incentive granted maybe revoked or rescinded in case the grant hereof, was obtained thru misrepresentation, falsification, deceit, or fraud and the offending party shall be held criminally and/or administratively liable.

SEC. 9. Penalty Clause - Any person found violating or infringing the provisions of this Ordinance or any part hereof, shall upon conviction, be punished by a fine of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (Php 5,000.00), or by imprisonment of six (6) months.

SEC. 10. Repealing Clause - All ordinances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent herewith, are hereby amended, modified or repealed accordingly

SEC. 11. Effectivity Clause - This Ordinance shall take effect upon its approval.

Enacted by the City Council of Manila at its regular session today, July 31, 2003

Approved by His Honor, the Mayor, on 11th August, 2003.

APPROVED:

JOSE L. ATIENZA, JR.
Mayor
City of Manila

ALEJANDRO I. ATIENZA
President Pro-Tempore and
Acting Presiding Officer
City Council, Manila

ATTESTED:

EMMANUEL R. SISON
Secretary to the Mayor

RODOLFO F. LAPID
Secretary to the City Council

ADMINISTRATION MEASURE

PRINCIPAL AUTHORS: HON. MILES M. ROCES, Hon. Amalia A. tolentino and Hon. Victoriano A. Melendez

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(PDI--Aug. 20, 2003)

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Notice of Loss
Notice is hereby given that the Phil Equity Fund Certificate No. 00000604 under the name of Richard Benson Kawson Co was reported lost.
(PDI – Aug. 20, 27 & Sept. 3, 2003)

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Message of Thanks

We, the family and relatives of the late

Judge Francisco Ma. Guerrero

who passed away in the Grace of the Lord
on August 11, 2003

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

CARMELITA RUBIO ANG

passed away in Jersey City, U.S.A.
on 13 August 2003

Her bereaved brothers & sisters, nephews & nieces and grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body will be brought to the Calamba Mortuary, Calamba City, Laguna on 21 August 2003.

Interment will be on 23 August 2003, at the Rizal Memorial Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Saint John the Baptist Church, Calamba City, Laguna.

Message of Thanks

For visiting us and being with us in our time of sorrows...
For praying with us and for us...
For the Mass cards and messages of sympathy and condolence...
For the beautiful flowers to express compassion...
For joining us in our nightly vigils...
For attending the Masses and funeral rites...
For thinking of us in our hour of grief...
For all that you have done to console our hearts...

Our sincerest gratitude,
From Parents **Fred & Brenda**
Brothers **Mark Bryan, Alfred Michael & Matthew**

MARGARET MARY SIOZON BANZON

"Mai-Mai"
of
Tacloban City
October 15, 1986 - June 02, 2003

COL. JUAN P. PARAS (Ret)

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on August 19, 2003

His loving wife **Concepcion Magsano**; children and in-laws, grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City. Interment will be at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City on a date to be announced later.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Rosalina Ocampo Ner

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on July 30, 2003

Wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

MA. LEAH B. DE GUZMAN

Peacefully joined our Lord on
18th of August, 2003 at the age of 39.

Her father **Engr. Leon A. de Guzman** (†); mother **Amparo**; sister **Titay**, brothers **Arthur** and **Alvin**; in-laws, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends mourn her passing and request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at #78 Capt. Pepe Ave., Capt. Pepe Subd., Cabanatuan City.

Interment will be on Saturday, 9 a.m. 23rd of August, 2003 at Sagrada Familia Memorial Park, Cabanatuan City

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DEATH NOTICE

MERCEDES A. CRUZ

Joined her Creator on August 15, 2003 at the age of 90.
Her body lies in state at Chapel B, Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Interment will be on Friday, August 22, 2003, 9:00 a.m. at Loyola Memorial Park Marikina.

The World Health Organization
Regional Office for the Western Pacific
announces with profound sorrow the demise of

DR. FRANCISCO J. DY, SR.

Regional Director Emeritus
Passed away on 17 August 2003 in Manila.

His body lies in state at
Our Lady of Consolation Parish Church,
Mira Nila Subdivision, Tandang Sora, Quezon City
where masses will be held daily at 8:00 p.m.

His remains will be cremated on Friday,
22 August 2003, at the Loyola Memorial Park
Crematorium, Marikina at 1:00 p.m.
after a 10:00 a.m. Mass at
Our Lady of Consolation Parish Church.

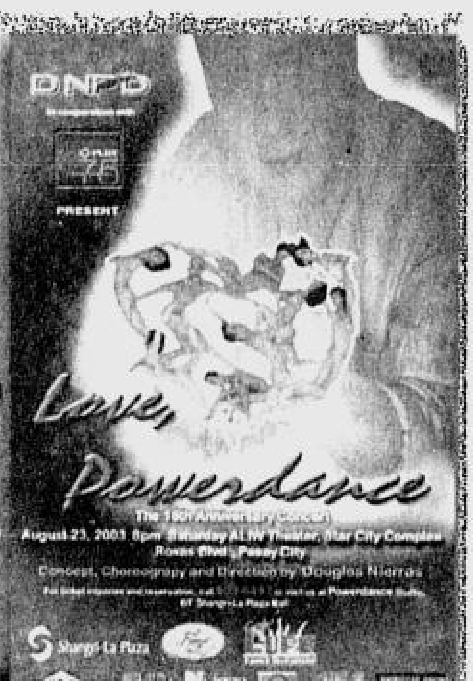
CLASSIFIEDS

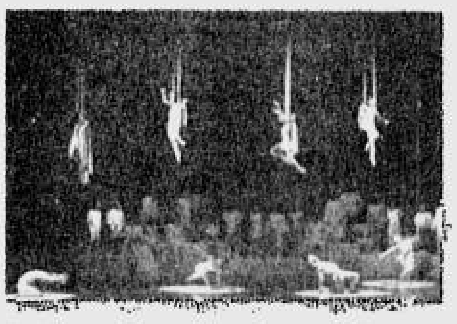
Douglas Nierras POWERDANCE Celebrates its 16th Anniversary Concert entitled *"Love Powerdance"* on August 23, 2003, 8pm at the ALIW Theater, Star city complex

For ticket inquiries and reservations call 633-6417 or visit us at the 6/Fshangri-la Plaza Mall, EDSA cor. Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City.

DNPD embarks on a momentous performance triggered by recent national events that proved to be unfortunate for Filipinos, Many of whom are disheartened and discouraged. This momentous event will highlight brand new choreographies that encourages faith and optimism.
We believe that this is the time fo us to take part in sharing kindness to all Filipinos

"Love Powerdance" our gift of kindness


DNPD
PRESENT
Love, Powerdance
The 16th Anniversary Concert
August 23, 2003 8pm Saturday ALIW Theater, Star City Complex
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
Concept, Choreography and Direction by Douglas Nierras
Shangri-La Plaza
XX93.1



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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **Supply and Delivery of Forty (40) Sets Diving Suits (Rebreathers)** for the Philippine Navy, with an approved budget of **Twenty Four Million Pesos (Php24,000,000.00)** chargeable against the AFP Modernization Program CY 2002 funds.

Only bids from entities who are manufacturers of said equipment shall be entertained.

Bid documents will only be available for issuance starting August 20, 2003 until September 9, 2003 during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, GHQ, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of **Two Thousand and Four Hundred Pesos (Php2,400.00)**, which is not refundable. The form of payment shall be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund. Pre-registration documents may only be submitted starting on the day of first publication until the day before the pre-bid conference.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder, authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of said documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **September 9, 2003 at 09:00 AM** (local time) at the **Silid Panday Pira**, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders may submit their query/ies, if any, in writing to the BAC Secretariat not later than three (3) working days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Deadline for submission of applications for eligibility requirements and the bid envelopes is on **September 23, 2003 at 08:30 AM** (local time) and followed by the Opening of Bids at **09:00 AM** at the Silid Panday Pira.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids based on the grounds specified in RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of his bid.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO G CAROLINA**
Lieutenant General AFP
Chairman, BAC

(PDI-Aug. 20 & 26, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

PAUL L. BAGALAY

EVALYN P. PALMIANO

AVANTGARDE SHIPPING CORPORATION would like to inform the public that **C/E PAUL LLANIADA BAGALAY,** former Chief Operating Officer, and **EVALYN PAISO PALMIANO,** former Accounting Manager, were terminated for cause effective August 12, 2003 and August 01, 2003 respectively.

Any transaction entered by them for and in behalf of the corporation after the abovementioned dates will not be honored.

This publication is being made in accordance with Section 12, Rule II, Part II of the new POEA Rules and Regulations Governing the Recruitment and Employment of Seafarers.

(PDI-Aug 20, 2003)

F4 Fever at the malls

THE F4 Fever hits SM Supermalls this August. Held in cooperation with Pepsi and Sony Music Philippines, this promo showcases Asia's hottest boyband and stars of the high-rating Chinovela "Meteor Garden"-Jerry Yan Cheng Su, Vic Zhou Yu Min, Vaness Wu Jian Hao, and Ken Zhu Xiao Chan.

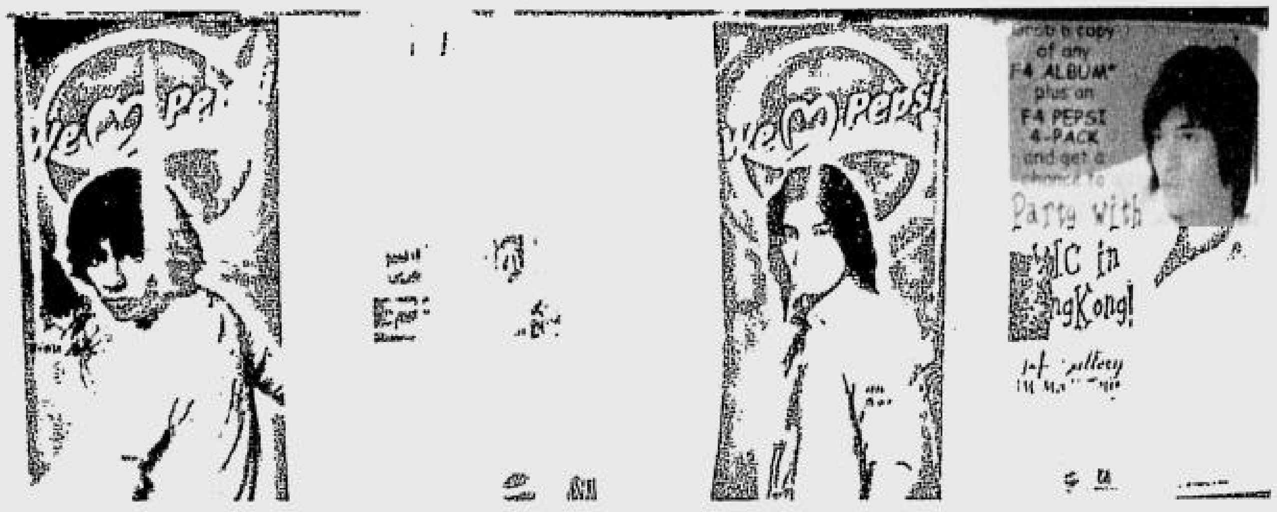
These cool guys are driving young girls all over Asia wild with their funky haircuts, good looks, and great attitude. They, after all, represent the F generation, the F standing for fun, fashion, and for the top Taiwanese boy band, fame and fortune. F4 has already released two multi-platinum albums, and are getting everybody hooked on "Meteor Garden" where they play four friends with different personalities. Jerry as Dao is the leader of the group, Ken is Ximen, a playboy who is into solving problems, Vic is Hua, the silent pal among them, while Vaness as Mei is the nice and clever one.

The fun begins at the F4 Photo Gallery, which shows lots and lots of pictures of the guys. Every purchase of four-pack Pepsi cans-two regulars and two twists-at the Pepsi booth at all SM Supermalls entitles one to a free walk-through at the photo galleries, plus a chance to purchase F4 products. These include posters, notepads, and hit CDs like "Meteor Rain", "F4 Fantasy Live Concert Tour," "Meteor Garden II", "Make a Wish," and "Body will Sing". VCDs like "Meteor Rain Karaoke", "Music Party", the "Meteor Garden Series Box Set," and "Meteor Rain Series" are also available.

Take a look and get hooked at the exhibit on the following dates: Aug. 20 to 23 at SM City Manila, Aug. 24 to 29 at SM Megamall, Aug. 29 to Sept. 1 at SM Southmall, Sept. 2 to 6 at SM City Bacoor, Sept. 7 to 12 at SM City North Edsa, and Sept. 14 to 18 at SM City Pampanga.

It's also a meteor shower of excitement as shoppers have a chance to party with Vic in Hong Kong. Every purchase of any Pepsi 4-pack or any F4 album from the F4 Gallery entitles one to a raffle coupon and a chance to win four round-trip tickets to Hong Kong, 3-day 2-night hotel accommodations, and 4 tickets to the Vic Pepsi Party. A total of two winners will be drawn in this promo, which is ongoing until Sept. 4. The raffle draw will be on Sept. 5 at the Sony Music office.

F4 STARS of the Chinovela 'Meteor Garden' Jerry as Dao Ming Si, Vic as Hua Ze Lei, Vaness as Mei Zuo, and Ken as Ximen, with Barbie Xu Xi Yuan as Shan Chai.



SHOPPERS can have a free walk-through at the F4 Photo Exhibit upon presentation of a proof of purchase of any of F4's album or a 4-pack Pepsi.

G-Plans carry a great tune with free music phones

CAN YOU imagine life without music? Admit it or not, music has always been an essential part of our lives. Being without it is like missing the best part of living. Now take your love for it to another level with the latest music phones like the Nokia 3300, Sony Ericsson T610 and Nokia 7250i free on Globe's G-Plans.

If you are a music buff who wants to play DJ, then the Nokia 3300 is best suited for you. This mobile music player allows you to copy and play for MP3 and AAC files with its 64 MB memory card or simply listen to the stereo FM radio. Aside from these, it has a digital recorder from the integrated FM radio, an Audio line-in, a five-band graphic equalizer and stereo widening to enhance the playback sound. You can even listen to your own playlist while playing preloaded and downloaded Java games or use your music files as ringing tones, be they polyphonic or True Tones. But that's not all this phone boasts of. It supports an advanced WAP browser, GPRS, MMS, SMS that stores up to 150 messages, chat and email over SMS, a picture viewer with storage of up to 50 pictures and is made more powerful with its 4.5 MB internal memory for user data. With these features, you're sure to be a mobile music maestro!

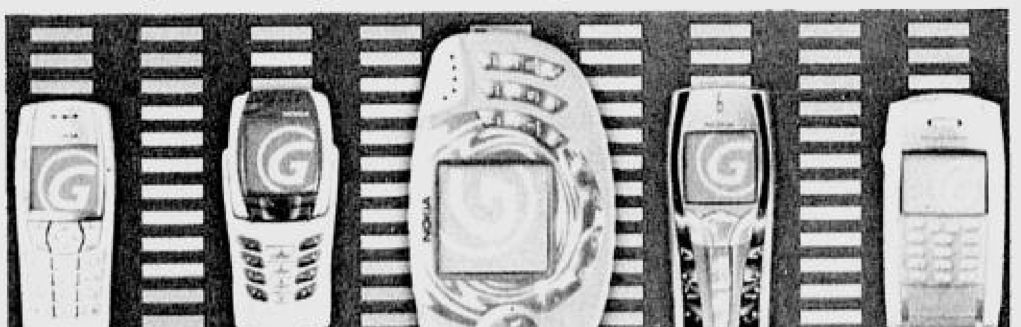
The Sony Ericsson T610 is the unit to own if you want your music phone to have the personal touch. You can use personalized wallpapers, screensavers, themes and 32-voice polyphonic ringtones. You can also show your musical inclination as you produce your own ringtone with the built-in Music DJ application with its extensive range of sampled melody, drums and bass segments. Relax and listen to your favorite music or radio programs through the Sony Ericsson Stereo FM Radio Handsfree HPR-20 or Bluetooth Music Handsfree HBM-30. This remarkable triband handset is also loaded with SMS, MMS and Java functions, GPRS and WAP capability, and a digital camera.

Want a fully loaded music phone with a visually provocative design to boot? Then get the Nokia 7250i. It has appealing audio features that stimulates the symphony shaman in you with its built-in stereo FM radio, polyphonic features and a wide selection of preloaded ringtones. You can also enjoy an advanced browsing experience with an enhanced XHTML browser over WAP. The Nokia 7250i also has an integrated digital camera that has zoom, contrast adjustment, slideshow and night-mode for low-light conditions. After taking the pictures, you are given the option to use it to identify the person calling you with the Portrait Image Caller ID. To add more to the functions of this Triband handset are the GPRS and WAP enabled connection, MMS and SMS messaging options that allow you to get delivery reports for sent messages, and an image scaling function to reduce message size.

Enjoy the FREE Nokia 7250i with Platinum Plan's 650 free text messages and 1,100 free call minutes for a monthly service fee of only P5,000. Whereas, you can get the Sony Ericsson T610 for FREE on a G-Max Plan for a monthly service fee of only P3,500 and it already gets you 750 free call minutes and 650 free text messages. You can also get a G-Match and grab the Nokia 3300 for free. For a monthly service fee of P2500, its free 500 call minutes and 550 free text messages perfectly matches the balance you want!

Still wanna hear additional sweet melodies? Then choose the music phone that best suits your taste. Also among the array of fabulous melody makers are the Nokia 6610 which now comes free with the G-Match Plan, the Nokia 6800 which is free on the Platinum Plan or the Sony Ericsson P800 that you can get for only P8,000 when you avail yourself of the Platinum Plan.

Groove to the music and rush to Globe Telecom Business Centers and the Hub now to own these great handsets available only until Aug. 30.



TOP NISSAN OFFICIALS SHOWCASE X-TRAIL

Top Nissan officials led by Toshiyuki Shiga, senior vice president of Nissan Motor Limited, Japan (center) is joined by Nissan Motors Philippines Inc president and chief executive officer Leman Lee and X-Trail chief product specialist Masahiro Toi (left) at the Nissan X-Trail launch July 23 at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio. Thus far, the X-Trail has shown great tenacity, selling over 100 units in just over a week.

Product FILES

Equal to a glass of milk

NESTLE Confectionery introduces its newest product Nestle Milkybar. Milkybar is Nestle's entry into the white chocolate market. Kids love to snack on chocolate but they cannot eat as often because they are not allowed to. At the same time, mothers want to continue giving milk to their kids even when they are out of the home to ensure that their kids snack on something nutritious and wholesome.

With a claim of "1 glass of Nestle Milk for every 100 grams of Milkybar," Milkybar will be the first permissible milk snack that kids will surely enjoy and mother will approve of. Milkybar contains Nido, which further strengthens the product's promise of quality and nutrition.

Nestle Milkybar is available in 7-gram inner boxes (24x7) and 7-gram canisters (100x7). Whether at home, school or at play, Milkybar is definitely the "Milk on the Go."

THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
NATIONAL STEEL CORPORATION

NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS FOR THE LEASE WITH OPTION TO PURCHASE OF THE NATIONAL STEEL CORPORATION ILIGAN PLANT

Sealed applications for offers for the lease with option to purchase of the Iligan Steel Plant of the National Steel Corporation (NSC) shall be received at the NSC Office, Unit 2701, 88 Corporate Center Bldg., corner Sedeño and Valero Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City with telephone numbers 752-4494 and 752-4497 on September 30, 2003 no later than 3:00 PM. For purposes thereof, the offer forms and guidelines, upon payment of a non-refundable registration fee of FORTY THOUSAND PESOS (P40,000.00), shall be available at the NSC Office in the aforementioned address starting from August 25, 2003.

A pre-offer conference shall be held on September 1, 2003 at 9:30 AM at the NSC Office in the aforementioned address. All clarifications and inquiries on the Pre-qualifications and Tender Documents shall be made during the said pre-conference.

Offers must be accompanied by a proposal bond in an amount set out in the Tender Documents. The proposal bond shall be valid for a period of one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the opening of offers.

The Management Committee of NSC reserves the right to reject any or all offers, or to waive any informalities in the Offers received, or to pre-qualify Offerors, and/or accept Offers for the lease of the Iligan Steel Plant, which is most advantageous to the National Steel Corporation.

All communications must be addressed to:

Management Committee
National Steel Corporation
Unit 2701, 88 Corporate Center Bldg.,
Corner Sedeño and Valero Sts.,
Salcedo Village, Makati City

(Sgd.) DANILO L. CONCEPCION
Liquidator

(Sgd.) LORENZO V. TAN
Chairman Management Committee

(PDI–Aug. 20 & 21, 2003)

Bits Clips

1st dinner plate contest

THIS year, plates are encouraged to resemble the best of pop culture in Spatter Platter, the first local dinnerware design contest presented by Melawares Manufacturing Corp. Melawares, the leading melamine dinnerware product manufacturer in the country, encourages all professionals and non-professional artists 16 years old and above, to flaunt their creativity and originality onto an extraordinary canvas-a plain Melawares melamine 10-inch plate, with Code#109, for a chance to win cash, gift packs, and a free stay at the Somerset Millennium, Somerset Olympia and Somerset Salcedo Suites. Deadline for submission of entries is extended until Aug. 20. Interested parties can call Nicole Abad at 361-2269.

Forum on seafarers' injuries, death

SEAFARERS are invited to a round-table discussion on work-related injuries, illnesses and death to be held on Aug. 21, 1 p.m. at the International Seafarers' Action Center (Isac) conference hall, Room 601, Fil-Garcia Tower, 140 Kalayaan Avenue corner Mayaman Street, UP Village, Quezon City. This fourth of a series of monthly forum on seafarers' rights under the new POEA standard contract is being hosted by Isac, and will have as facilitators Dr. Rodney Hernandez and Emily Ilag of the IOHSAD, maritime lawyer Joseph T. Entero and Dr. Cristina Rachel Magsambol. Invited reactors are Teresita Castellon Lora, head of the Migrant Workers Desk of the NLRC, POEA administrator Rosalinda Baldoz, Bishop Bart Espartero of the IFI, Maureen Loste of the NCCP, orthopedic specialist Dr. Melito P. Ramos, and Swapi president Dr. Alicia C. Lamigo. For reservations, call Capt. Anthony Dan Ogbinar, Isac executive director, at 920-7433 or 920-7481, or e-mail isac@i-manila.com.ph. Admission is free.

PHOTO AND DIGITAL IMAGING EXPO

Island Multi-Industrial Sales is among the major trade exhibitors in the biggest trade exhibit in the photo industry this year. Slated at the Harrison Plaza, this affair is organized by the Association of Photo Studios of the Philippines (Apsop). Shown is Allen Yap, general manager of Island Multi-Industrial Sales, signing the contract with Benjie Rivera, executive committee chair of the Expo and president of Apsop. Witnessing the signing are Apsop directors Reuben Almazan, Charlie Ramos, Lito Briones and Nick Rivera (seated, right), program and pageant committee chair. The event is presented by Kodak Pro-Image Film, Canon, Solaris Film, Lyceum of the Philippines, Philippine Free Press and Manila Bulletin

ALL ABOUT WORK

Linguistics graduate teaches CSRs how to speak the American way

MAHALEY Salido (standing, left) with Qinteraction's training manager Ma.Teresa Salandanan and vice president for operations Tim Smith RUDY ESPERAS

By Cecile G. Garcia

THE RECENT upsurge of call centers has resulted in more job opportunities and has paved the way for new and exciting careers.

Thirty-year-old Mahaley Salido is among those who have discovered and pursued alternate careers in the call center industry. Salido is a training specialist at Qinteraction Phil. Inc., a call center engaged in outsource customer care. Established in the Philippines in 1999, Qinteraction handles inbound and outbound calls involving customer service and telemarketing.

Former tutor

Salido joined the company last year, responding to a newspaper ad. Previously, she was doing private tutorials in English, Math and Science, and teaching part-time at Powerminds Info Center, a tutorial school.

"After teaching for three years, I realized I wanted a job where I could apply what I learned in college," says Salido, a Linguistics graduate of the University of the Philippines. Also, she wanted a sense of permanence and anticipated the benefits that employees of large companies usually enjoy.

Salido began as a customer service representative (CSR) and underwent the required training. Adept at handling calls, she quietly moved a notch higher and became a line trainor in March of this year. "A line trainor," she explains, "is a CSR who also functions as trainor when there is a need."

Training certification

From there, Salido was promoted to her present position. "I had to undergo a month's training," she says. Trainors at Qinteraction are required to do this before they can obtain a certification. Qinteraction, incidentally, boasts of having one of the longest training periods for CSRs and trainors, thus assuring clients of quality service.

As a trainor, Salido's job is to train newly hired CSRs or agents. Once in a while, she also has to train regular employees who need to improve their accent or their customer service skills. She discloses, "I started as an accent trainor. I was teaching new agents how to speak with a neuter American accent that is the norm in our call center. Right now, I'm a trainor in grammar."

Demanding job

One advantage trainors at Qinteraction enjoy is that they're not limited to one specific area. Salido for example, also handles training for new accounts and company orientation. Another advantage is that trainors themselves prepare the training plan or module they need. A training program, specifically for new accounts and company orientation, is based on the requirements of the client.

Being a trainor, according to Salido, is not much different from teaching. She found the transition relatively easy. She points out, "Both jobs require communication skills and dealing with people. My experience as teacher helped a lot, especially in the beginning."

Being a trainor, however, is much more demanding in terms of the necessary skills. Salido explains that a trainor must not only be an excellent communicator. He must also be a quick thinker. He must be flexible, willing to change his schedule or assignment at a moment's notice.

Positive attitude

"It's important to have a genuine appreciation of interacting with people," interjects Salido. As a way of motivating her trainees, she makes them realize the value and significance of their job. "I tell them they should be proud of what they're doing because they are serving the community in their own way." Most of all, she encourages them to be optimistic and to maintain a positive attitude.

Keeping the same positive attitude, Salido meets the challenge of her job with confidence. She avers, "Our main challenge as trainors is to make sure that the CSR we train will perform well when they go on line. We make sure those we endorse are perfectly capable of handling calls. They have to meet the company's standards. Those who don't, have to undergo further training."

Love for the job

Salido apparently loves what she does and is unabashedly dedicated to it. "There is nothing I don't like about it. I like every aspect of it," she reveals. She goes on to explain how much she enjoys the working environment, which is highly professional but warm and friendly. She thrives in this environment, which also happens to be dynamic. She says, "I like it because I don't like routine and I can easily adapt the change." And because she sincerely enjoys interacting with people, training never becomes tedious, and seeing her trainees grow and improve is a real source of joy and fulfillment.

"This is indeed a rewarding profession," says Salido, referring of course to her job as a trainor. "There is a sense of accomplishment in helping someone, in seeing your trainees turn out to be competent and skilled CSRs." More than anything, this psychic reward serves as a constant motivation for Salido.

Even at the very start of her career at Qinteraction, Salido knew what she wanted. During her initial interview, she stated precisely that she wanted to be in training. "Of course, I realized I had to be a CSR first. I had to be prepared for the job," she says.

Future dreams

At this point, Salido is pretty certain of where she's going and how to get there. She has charted her future with the company. "I plan to stay in training for a while. I hope to become a supervisor." Envisioning the growth of the company, she sees herself growing with it, pointing out that she would like to be around when Qinteraction becomes the number one call center in the country.

Looking farther ahead, in 5 to 10 years, she sees herself reaping the rewards of her efforts and becoming a training manager.

"I feel there's much I can offer this company in terms of dedication and passion for the job and right attitude," declares the trainor. But, then, she also receives much in return. Besides being financially rewarding, her job, according to her, builds up her self-confidence and gives her a psychological edge over people. She adds, "I'm really in my element in my job, doing what I do."

The trainor, by the way, has been married for 6 years to Elmer Juan Salido. They have a son and a daughter, and are expecting their third child. Salido, though committed to her career, is a devoted wife and mother. She says her family serves as her guide and inspiration.

How do you deal with a hot-tempered coworker?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

DEAR WW: One of my coworkers has a hot temper. The other day he blew his top even worse than usual, and a bunch of us started wondering if, given all the shootings in the news, this guy could be dangerous and if there is anything we can do to defuse him when he gets in our faces.

Don't Want To Be A Statistic

Once when I was back in college and had hair that looked like I'd stuck my finger in an electric socket, I went to pick up a friend at a train station.

While I was waiting, a guy in an old tattered coat came over and asked for a cigarette. I smiled at him and said, "Sorry, man, I don't have any." The guy glowered at me, then walked away. A few minutes later he returned-holding out a smoke. "Here," he said, "you look like you need it."

Professional advice

Which just goes to show that even the people you expect the least from can surprise you. And that's probably true with your coworker. For tips on how to handle him, I turned to Working Wounded reader Larry Chavez, a hostage negotiator and police sergeant in Sacramento, CA. The tips are particularly timely because-believe it or not-according to government statistics, homicide is the second leading cause of death at work. You'll find more suggestions on his web site, http://workplace-violence.com. But a lot of his advice doesn't just apply to dealing with a violent person. Except for the 911 part, it's great advice for dealing with anyone. I've adapted his tips below.

Call security. As soon as you sense a situation could turn violent, call the pros.

Keep your cool. Displays of anger, fear or anxiety are like blood in the water to a potentially violent person. Talk in a calm voice, lower and slower than his (sorry guys, but violent outbursts are still mostly a guy thing). But be careful not to talk down to him.

Solutions

Ask what's wrong. People generally become violent because of some "triggering event." If they're given a chance to talk (or yell) about the triggering situation, they often calm down. So ask the guy what's bugging him. Then, listen attentively, maintaining full eye contact, while he responds.

Ask him for solutions. Give him a chance to solve the problem that triggered his anger. It'll help him calm down, and you may gain a useful solution.

Help him save face. Helping the person preserve his dignity often helps defuse a potentially violent situation. Find ways to communicate to coworkers about the situation, and to punish the perpetrator if necessary, that will be the least humiliating to him.

Death at work

Should you worry about getting killed at work? No: workplace homicide claims twenty victims a week from among the many millions of people who are employed. But the fact that it's the second leading cause of death at work means that your plans for handling a violent situation should be of the first order.

Here are the results of our last workingwounded.com/ABC-news.com poll: How concerned are you about violence at work?

—I worry about it a lot, 10.6%

—It never crosses my mind, 41.2%

—I think about it once and a while, 48.

(Mr. Rosner is the author of best-seller's "The Boss's Survival Guide," McGraw Hill 2001, and "Working Wounded," Warner 2000, a speaker and founder of the award-winning Working Wounded.com and Retention-Evangelist.com. He is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. Email him at bob@workingwounded.com*)*

Friendlier workers are more productive

WASHINGTON—It may seem more professional to stay impersonal at work, but in fact friendlier employees are more productive, according to researchers at the University of Michigan.

A comparison of the American work ethic to approaches in other countries shows that keeping an emotional distance may not be the most effective way to get the job done, said Jeffrey Sanchez-Burks, a psychologist who led the study.

Better integration

Friendly workers pay attention to indirect meanings, work well with other cultures and are perceived as trustworthy, Sanchez-Burks said.

An impersonal style blinds workers from noticing differences in style. They often fail to notice non-verbal communication, Sanchez-Burks said.

Writing in the August issue of the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, Sanchez-Burks said he traded notes with colleagues at the University of Michigan, Seoul National University in Korea and the International Business University in Nanjing, China.

Sanchez-Burks ran several experiments, having students and employees in Fortune 500 firms act out work scenarios.

Impersonal style

"An impersonal style tends to restrict the bandwidth of information a person attends to in the workplace," he said.

"What is literally said will be followed closely but information about the context in which the information is conveyed—information often critical for task success and productivity—is lost," he added.

"This type of miscommunication, like ships passing in the night, is further exacerbated in diverse organizations (domestically and internationally) because rarely are people with other cultural backgrounds as impersonal as mainstream Americans."

Protestant belief

This impersonal attitude at work is rooted in Protestant beliefs of putting emotion aside at the office, Sanchez-Burks said in a telephone interview this week.

The American style of keeping things impersonal at the workplace is virtually confined to the United States, he said.

Workers in South Korea, Japan and India and especially Latin American countries place high importance on personal relationships at work, he said.

Sanchez-Burks said Latin Americans become friends with people they are doing business with first and then move onto the work while Americans work first and then become friends.

Work ethic

Sanchez-Burks does not argue that Americans are completely impersonal. In social settings, the researchers found Americans to be highly friendly.

The challenge is transferring that behavior into the workplace.

"For a very long time, (this impersonal work ethic) has been seen as essential to the success of Western business organizations. So it's difficult to accept that staying on task may actually be a barrier to productivity in today's global environment," Sanchez-Burks said.

Reuters

Workplace lessons from peanut butter

WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara

ON A brief mom's escape to Page One at the Power Plant, I stumbled upon a book that I thought captured all that we have been talking about in this column over the past year. The book is called "Peanut Butter and Jelly Management: Tales from Parenthood, Lessons for Managers" written by Chris and Reina Komisarjevsky (published by AMACOM Books). It's a nifty small book with a brown paper book jacket (much like a brown paper bag where you would put-what else?-peanut butter and jelly sandwiches). The premise of the book echoes the thesis of this column: "If we listen carefully, watch our children attentively at home, see how they behave, and think through how we go about 'bringing them up'—we can greatly improve our chances of successfully providing leadership in the workplace." In short, striving to be a good parent more than prepares you for the challenges of management.

Chris and Reina recognized that the behavioral patterns they saw at home were the same patterns they saw at work. Over time, they "came to recognize ever more strongly that the issues were remarkably similar, whether in the concrete and glass office building or in the cedar-sided house," they explained.

The book then is a collection of short stories with each story organized in three parts. First, a home event is re-created. Second, the lessons they've learned from the event. And third, the lessons from home which could apply at work. The result is a heartwarming collection that provides a refreshing break from those heavy, theoretical management books.

I'd like to give you a sneak preview of the book because I think it contains gems we could all use. I chose excerpts from the chapter called "Balloons for Christopher Michael." The first part deals with the birth and eventual death of the couple's infant son Christopher Michael. Chris writes: [Though he never marked his first birthday] every September 10th, Christopher's birthday, all the kids gather in front of our house, with bunches of balloons in their hands. All at the same time, they open their fingers and let the balloons fly. As the balloons float upwards and catch the wind, the kids yell out as loudly as they can 'Happy Birthday, Christoper!' Surely, he hears them."

Our daily lives are full of emotion; it provides the special context in which we live. Common experiences create a strong emotional bond. Reliving the experience or the memory of a person who had been part of that bond through traditions (like the balloons) reinforce the bond.

Chris draws the parallel: "Businesses like people and families—need an emotional bond. They need successes, but they also need failures. They need traditions, respect for their founders and founding principles. And they need people of varied talents who personify the very values that have made the company great.

"The challenge for the leader in business is twofold," writes Chris. "First, to find a way to balance the human and the financial responsibilities. And, second, to create a culture where emotion is fostered in order to help drive the business forward.

"Emotion binds people together equally in those times when there is great success and during those times which challenge the economic growth—even the very survival—of the company."

The conclusions are sound, true, and so heartwarming, much like peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. The books are still available at Page One and would make a great gift to your boss, that other working mom who sits across your cubicle, or simply get it as a gift for you. And, hey, don't forget to grab the latest copy of Metro Working Mom while you're at it. Gretchen Baretto is on the cover this month and we've got a really interesting feature on how to handle pain, whether it's emotional pain, physical pain, or those nasty petty aches that we have. There's just so much to learn.

(An Mercado-Alcantara is editor-in-chief of ABS-CBN Publishing's Metro Working Mom. You can write to her at working-mom@pinoycentral.com*)*

'Can foreigners... '

From page B14

Further, it must be noted that the law does not distinguish whether the foreigner is a permanent resident of the Philippines or not.

Immigration restrictions

While I am not familiar with the laws of the United States, it can be reasonably assumed that there are also US laws-although they may not be as many as in the Philippines-that limit foreign ownership of or even employment of foreigners in, certain business activities in the US particularly those involving national security. And, of course, the US has immigration restrictions as well as prohibitions on foreigners working in the US without the required approvals of the government agencies concerned.

I do not know if and to what extent US laws or policies require American ownership of broadcast media. But it would be possible for a non-American to be employed by a TV station in the US subject to compliance with the applicable employment requirements in the US.

(For career advice from our CEO columnists, email peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.*)*

PEOPLE at WORK

E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
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'Can foreigners work in Philippine media?'

By Atty. Felipe L. Gozon,
Chair & CEO, GMA Network Inc.

ASK YOUR CEO

I HAVE a question on your recent column in the INQUIRER. Can you explain the Anti-Dummy Law here in the Philippines? How does it apply to foreigners working here?

As a foreigner working here and married to a Filipina, I find it discriminates against foreigners who want to work in the area of the media such as TV stations. Does this law prohibit foreigners from working, say in a TV station?

When the Filipino is working in the States, there is no such law that prohibits them from such work. Why does the Philippines have such a law, exactly how does it work and how does it apply to foreigners? What is the purpose of it? Is it really to protect the job or the Filipino worker? Are there such laws in the United States along this same line? I don't think so but I am curious .

When you worked in the New York law firm, were there such laws like this in effect in the USA that would have prevented you from working for the law firm?

I have only heard of an anti-dummy law here and have not been able to have a clear understanding of it. I hope you can reply and help me understand this better. Thank you.

David Henshaw

The Philippine Constitution and various statutes have reserved ownership of certain business activities to Filipino citizens or entities wholly or partly owned by Filipino citizens. In mass media, for example, the Philippine Constitution requires 100% Filipino ownership.

Anti-dummy law

The policy of the state to limit foreign participation in certain business activities was further implemented and made effective by the Anti-Dummy Law (C.A. No. 108, as amended by P.D. No. 715).

CEO mentor Gozon

Section 2-A of the Anti-Dummy Act bans the employment of foreigners in wholly or partly nationalized activities, and provides for only two exceptions to this prohibition, namely: (1) employment of "technical personnel" as may be authorized by the Secretary of Justice (formerly the authorization was required to be made by the President of the Philippines, no less), or under special laws, by the government agency concerned such as the Board of Investments for enterprises registered thereunder, and (2) where the alien is elected as a member of the board of directors or governing body of corporations or associations in proportion to the allowable participation of foreigners in the capital of such entities. In the case of public utilities, the 1987 Philippine Constitution further requires that the executive and managing officers must be citizens of the Philippines.

Under the Anti-Dummy Law, no foreigner can be employed in or by TV stations, except as a "technical person" and as authorized by the Secretary of Justice. Assuming that a foreigner can be excepted as a technical person, he still needs to obtain a work permit from the Department of Labor and Employment and an employment visa from the Bureau of Immigration.

Alien employment

The prohibition extends to the employment of aliens in both control and non-control positions. In the case of *King vs. Hernaez*, 4 SCRA 793 (1962), the Supreme Court of the Philippines ruled that the employment of aliens in control and non-control positions in a retail establishment or trade is prohibited by the Anti-Dummy Law, except for technical positions with previous authority by the President (now the Secretary of Justice). Said the Court:

"It [Anti-Dummy Law] ... limits the management, operation, administration and control to Filipino citizens. These words may be technically synonymous in the sense that they all refer to the exercise of a directing, restraining or governing influence over an affair or business to which they relate, but it cannot be denied that by reading them in connection with the position therein enumerated, one cannot draw any other conclusion that that they cover the entire range of employment regardless of whether they involve control or non-control activities.

"When the law says that you cannot employ an alien in any position pertaining to management, operation, administration, and control, 'whether as an officer, employee, or laborer therein,' it only means one thing: the employment of a person who is not a Filipino citizen even in a minor clerical or non-control position is prohibited. The reason is obvious: to plug any loophole or close any avenue that an unscrupulous alien may resort to flout the law or defeat its purpose, for no one can deny that while one may be employed in a non-control position who apparently is harmless, he may later turn out to be a mere tool to further the evil designs of the employer. It is imperative that the law be interpreted in a manner that would stave off any attempt at circumvention of this legislative purpose."

Purpose

According to the Court, the purpose behind the Anti-Dummy Law is:

"...since the Anti-Dummy Law is but a mere complement of the former (Retail Trade Act) in the sense that it is designed to make effective its aims and purposes *and both tend to accomplish the same objective either by excluding aliens from owning any retail trade or by banning their employment if the trade is owned by Filipinos, and the target of both is 'the removal and eradication of the shackles of foreign economic control and domination' thru the nationalization of the retail trade both in ownership and employment*... Indeed, in nationalizing employment in retail trade the right of choice of an employer is not impaired but its sphere is merely limited to the citizens to the exclusion of those of other nationalities."

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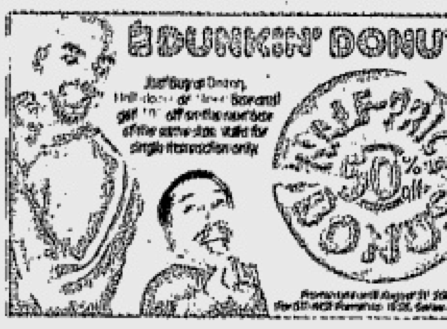

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Conversation with Josh Hartnett

Hollywood actor Josh Hartnett talks about screaming girls, Marlon Brando and moving out of his mother's house

By Ruben V. Nepales
Contributor

LOS ANGELES—"What do you mean by that, man?"

Josh Hartnett gives me an I'll-punch-you stare and laughs.

I have just innocently asked him if his play scenes in the action film "Hollywood Homicide" reminded him of his high-school theater gigs. But you see, in this action-packed cop movie laced with humor (recent Manila visitor Lou Diamond Phillips has a cameo role), Josh plays a rookie Hollywood detective who is a hammy actor on the side. He is teasing me that my question implies that he was a bad actor in his Minneapolis South High School days.

"You didn't think it was Marlon Brando?" Josh, his deep-set dark eyes twinkling, asks. Wearing a gray knit cap, long-sleeved black shirt and jeans, he is more casual and confident than the last time I interviewed him over a year ago for his acclaimed, Oscar-nominated film "Black Hawk Down."

Josh's KC Calden character stages "Streetcar Named Desire" as a showcase of his acting talent, hoping that this is one that will make him say goodbye to his daytime job of chasing thugs. The star of "Pearl Harbor" says, "What is great about Ron Shelton as a director is that he let me direct the little play that's in the movie. We did a lot more than you saw. We did a 12-minute piece from 'Streetcar...' It was even more ridiculous, over-the-top than what you saw."

Wearing nothing but briefs on an apartment balcony, Josh screams Brando's memorable "Stella!" in one scene and wakes up with a babe sleeping on his bed. "Everybody wants to be a Brando when he is a young actor," he says with a smile. When Josh, as KC, tells Harrison Ford (playing a veteran partner in solving tinseltown's crimes) that he is an actor on the side, Harrison's Joe Gavilan quickly deadpans, "I understand. You're gay."

Man of the arts

In real life, Josh was a high-school jock until a football accident forced him to leave the field and discover the campus theater. Raising his arms in an attempt to stretch his 6'3" frame in a hotel room, Josh recalls how he pursued theater and painting. "I moved to New York and went to a school (State University of New York). What I wanted to do was to be part of theater because I really liked it, and the visual arts department because I wanted to be a painter. I was hoping that I could do both and live in New York. A man of the arts and all that. It turned out that I really liked theater more. There just wasn't time to take the visual arts classes. Then I came out here and gave myself two months to get a job and I got lucky."

"I was lucky enough not to really struggle," stresses the actor in his trademark mellow, deep voice. To this day, the former altar boy is grateful about his rare Hollywood luck: "I came out here and within two weeks, I had a job." That job was a part in a short-lived TV series. It led to movies such as "Halloween H20: 20 Years Later," "The Faculty," Sofia Coppola's "The Virgin Suicides," where he caught the critics' attention for the first time, "Here on Earth," "O" (in which "Othello" is adapted to a high-school setting, with Josh as a modern-day version of Iago) and "40 Days and 40 Nights," where his character vowed sexual abstinence for the period mentioned in the title.

Sexy vegetarian

Along the way, he escorted Kirsten Dunst to her prom, dated Natalie Imbruglia and supermodel Giselle Bundchen. Last July, he was voted "the world's sexiest vegetarian" in a poll by the People For the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta). Yes, by the same Peta folks who spill blood on models parading in fur coats.

Peta might like to know what its poster boy thinks of his body. "My best quality is probably my butt," he has been quoted once. "And my worst is probably my pecs; I don't really have any."

Are the girls' screams for him, especially at events, quieting down a bit? "I was at this year's MTV Awards and it seemed pretty crazy to me," he says with a smile. It's refreshing to hear a star who doesn't seem to mind the adulation. "It's flattering," he adds. Even Harrison Ford was quoted as saying, "My 12-year-old daughter and her girlfriends refer to Josh as Josh 'Hot-nett.' He's huge. I used to be huge."

Annoying story

Josh is clearly annoyed, however, about the cover story headline screaming "Josh Hartnett Just Moved Out of His Mom's House" in Details magazine, out on the streets in the week I interviewed him. "The magazines here in the States have an agenda when you walk in the door," he begins. "It doesn't matter what you say. They just make up their own articles. It's the most ridiculous system. I was gone from my mom's house for years. Since then, I never lived in my mom's house. They just make the stuff up. It's kind of absurd, funny to read. It's amazing that that is what your persona is based on in public. It's upsetting because no one will ever know what you stand for. There's a 'disconnect.' Some writers have integrity. Some don't and make stuff up. When they do that, it's annoying because you wasted your time talking to them about things that matter to you. They just went ahead and threw it all on your face. So now when people read it (the Details cover story), they don't get the real story, and that's too bad."

Relationships

However, Josh did take a year off from making movies to spend more time with his folks and friends back home and travel. Dividing his time between St. Paul and New York, he is close to his parents, who are divorced, and three younger siblings "who are now teenagers. I miss them all the time."

He explains, "I didn't stop working for five years. Then after 'Black Hawk Down,' I said, I'm taking a year off. I evaluated my life. Because I didn't want to get caught up in the hype. It's easy to do so. I know people who feel like they're missing so much in their personal lives because they just keep going and keep fighting for the parts. I was lucky enough to be that kind of person who said, 'I've been working for five years straight. I don't know my family and friends anymore. I don't care if this next role brings big money or is a big project. This is the time when I want to reestablish relationships in my life.'"

"I found my old friends," he said of his leave from the movies. "I traveled a little bit. I got to know the world. A lot of people in the industry thought that I was stupid, but I feel like that time off really helped me. Whether I became a better actor or a hotter actor, it didn't matter to me. I became a better person."

Desire to diversify

He continues, "I respect the roles a lot more than I did before. I'm putting a concentrated effort into doing all sorts of different types of roles and surprising myself. I want to expand as an artist. As an artist, my options were narrowing. People were starting to offer me the same type of thing. I want to diversify. I want to do something really dark. Something that's really going to take me to my limits dramatically. I also want to go here, this movie with Harrison where I'm absurd, silly and a little bit goofy."

Josh may act slightly goofy but his and Harrison's stunts are for real. Director Ron Shelton says, "Actors are like little boys in a way. They want to compete with each other. I never asked Josh and Harrison to do any stunts but they always want to do them, so they did most of the stunts themselves. Sometimes they got a little hurt. There are no special effects in this movie. None. They are all real stunts, real action and cars speeding. I get really bored by computer graphic shots because audiences know they're not real."

The action and chase scenes ensue when a rap group is gunned down in a Hollywood club. Josh and Harrison take the case, and the action, around LA's famous landmarks. What does Josh know now about the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD)?

With a glint in those green eyes set by thick dark brows, Josh quips, "I know a lot about LAPD, but in order to remain unticketed (laughs), I'm going to keep it to myself. These cop guys that worked in the movie and the people from LAPD's Hollywood station who took me around are really cool people. They were very open and told me a lot about the scandals (corruption and brutality exposés that made national headlines). Since this movie is about what detectives do in their time off, some got in conversations about that. Some of it is okay to talk about. Some of it they trusted me not to say anything, so I won't. LAPD gets a bad rap sometimes. In some, it's deserved. In others, it's not, because some of the people I ran into are really good people."

Was he surprised that detectives can have other jobs, from private security guards to realtors? "I was totally surprised when they told me what the concept of the movie is based on how cops in LA are allowed to convert their overtime hours into time off so they can do other jobs. I said, Come on, that's ridiculous. Is that true? And they said yes. Bob (Robert Souza), the co-writer and co-producer, told me he was a robbery homicide agent slash real estate agent."

In Josh's character's case, KC is a double slash case: he is a detective/actor/yoga instructor.

Is he into yoga? "Yoga is a beautiful thing to do if you have the time. My instructor used to say, in order to maintain your yoga discipline, you only need five minutes a day. I still don't buy that. When I was doing it, I was doing an hour and a half every day. I ended up practicing it for about seven months before and during the filming. I got pretty into it and then I went to Montreal to do another movie. I got lazy and stopped. Now I wish I had stuck with it because it's really good for you."

Since this buddy cop movie investigates a rap music world ruled by a Suge Knight/P. Diddy composite (played by Isaiah Washington), and features Kurupt, Master P, Outkast's Dre, producer Kevin Law and 504 Boyz, Josh is asked if he digs rap music. "Yes, I do," he says readily. "It's not the only music I listen to, though. Dre—he's a true artist. Kurupt—he's crazy, he's out of his mind. I got to meet Master P but I didn't do as many scenes with him as Harrison did. It's good to work with these guys because with these musicians, acting is not really their job, so they just have fun. You get a different view of what you're doing."

For some reason though, the ring tone of Josh's cell phone in the movie is that '80s chestnut, "Funkytown." A reporter asks Josh if we can hear his cell-phone's ring tone. "This girl I know threw me in a pool last night. My cell phone broke." Ah, yes. It must have been quite a night for Peta's hunkiest vegetarian.

E-mail the author at rnepales57@aol.com.

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CINEMANILA MOVIE REVIEWS

Two takes on love

By Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondent

"PONIENTE" shows a Spain that you've never seen before.

"Divine Intervention: A Chronicle of Love and Pain"
Directed by Elia Suleiman
2003

BLACK humor, comedic vignettes and occasional utter silence characterize this recent project of Elia Suleiman, who writes, directs, produces and acts in this film. It starts with a unique, if not chilling, scene, as Santa Claus is chased by a group of teenage boys up a rocky hill under the burning sun with his gaily-wrapped gifts trailing behind him.

Santa finally stops beside a tree and collapses with a knife stuck to his chest.

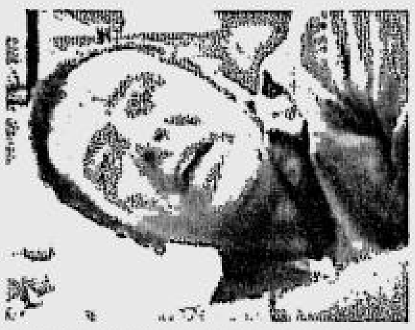
Short takes about a neighborhood in Nazareth follow. A man repeatedly throws his garbage into his neighbor's garden. Another man waits at an empty bus station, and someone always reminds him that no bus is coming. A woman cleans up an abandoned piece of land, gathering up all the wood and making a bonfire in the middle of the heat. Graffiti on a wall reads "I am crazy because I love you."

Eventually, the film gets to the main characters in the story. A Palestinian man who lives in Jerusalem (played by Elia Suleiman) and his girlfriend from Ramallah, who says absolutely nothing in the film (Remember "The Isle"?), meet secretly in a parking lot near an army checkpoint, holding hands as they watch the antics of the military.

The seeming incoherence of the film as well as the numerous symbols employed, will make you either like "Divine Intervention" for its inventiveness or hate it because of its strange approach to comedy and drama. Some may find its political commentaries inappropriate, especially on issues concerning the Middle East at present. Nevertheless, it is an interesting take on the everyday life of people in a country of turmoil.

Rating: 8 out of 10

Suleiman kills Santa Claus while Gutierrez's heroine fights for love and family



THIS movie is teeming with social issues.

VIEWERS will observe the similarities between Spanish and Philippine rural life.

"Poniente"
Directed by Chus Gutierrez
2002

Spanish director Chus Gutierrez shows a Spain you've probably never seen before in "Poniente" ("West").

Pre-school teacher Lucia (Cuca Escribano) returns to her home in southern Spain after the death of her father. She decides to stay and manage the family's tomato greenhouse business, incurring the ire of her cousin Miguel, who wants the land. She meets and falls in love with her father's accountant, Curro (Jose Coronado), who shares her compassion for the illegal immigrants that comprise the workforce.

The story raises a social issue. Underpaid and overworked, the immigrants decide to negotiate with their employers who blatantly refuse their demands. The economic and social tension eventually leads to total chaos. Lucia desperately tries to save her business, her family and her romance.

Beautiful sceneries of Spain fill the movie, which has a strong, likeable heroine that you will root for.

What is also interesting about the film is the similarity between Spanish and Philippine rural life. The realities of racism and unemployment, the food and the language are comparable. In fact, the movie is virtually a two-hour soap opera, with family feuds, romance and social issues making "Poniente" a movie that is easy to relate to.

Rating: 7 out of 10

E-mail the author at cathy_young1@yahoo.com

A typical hero-ensemble movie with a lot of entertainment value

"A League of Extraordinary Gentlemen"
Directed by Stephen Norrington

Not only does it have twists and special effects, it also makes for an interesting film about well-loved literary characters

WITH SUPERHERO films making a killing at the box office, it seems that Hollywood is set on making a movie out of every book character, be it as cultic as Frodo Baggins and friends in "The Lord of the Rings," or as unlikely as "The Hulk," which a friend of mine referred to as Shrek-on-steroids. It is usually expected that the cinematic rendition of these characters' adventures will amass the same popularity (and earnings) as their print counterparts.

This is the case with "A League of Extraordinary Gentlemen." Directed by Stephen Norrington, the movie is based on the graphic novel by Alan Moore and Kevin O'Neill.

Sean Connery, still his debonair self in spite of gaining weight around the middle, plays Allan Quatermain, a hunter/adventurer whose services are once again needed by The British Empire to save the world. He reluctantly agrees to the mission, and joins other members of the League. His team includes Tom Sawyer (Shane West), who has grown up and is a member of the Secret Service; Rodney Skinner, The Invisible Man (Tony Curran); Mina Harker (Peta Wilson) of Dracula fame; Captain Nemo (Naseeruddin Shah) from "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea;" Dorian Gray (Stuart Townsend); and Dr. Jekyll (Jason Flemyng).

It may have the typical hero-ensemble plot, but LXG certainly has a lot of entertainment value, albeit with less focus due to its so many characters. Not only does it have its fair share of twists and special effects, it also makes for an interesting "Where Are They Now?" movie about well-loved literary characters.

Memorable scenes include a fight sequence with vampire Mina Harker, who gives Buffy a run for her money. Also watch out for an interesting "Easter egg" like those you find in DVDs—see if you can spot the names of the authors of the original graphic novel posted somewhere in the movie. Except for the disappointing ending, it was worth shelling out the 100 bucks—at least once anyway.

Rating: 6 out of 10

Catherine Young

E-mail the author at cathy_young1@yahoo.com

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She's not sure if he's ready to leave his girlfriend for her

DEAR Mark and September,

I met this guy at a bar in Eastwood a few months ago.

The moment I saw him, I felt that we had this thing for each other. Luckily, I was right. The problem is, he has a girlfriend of almost three years now.

I already met the guy's family and they all like me as well. His younger sis even asked me to wait for her brother and I said yes.

But honestly, I'm not sure if he can leave his girlfriend for me. Should I wait for him or not? I'm really confused because I don't want to ruin their relationship.

But I like the guy so much that I even broke up with my boyfriend of five years because of him. If I'll wait for him, I know I will get hurt if I end up empty-handed but I also don't want to give up on him.

CHINA

Niño Mark Sablan
& September Mabino

Mistake number 1: Going for someone already committed to someone else. The rational ones just steal a glance or sideway glance, and then sigh. The crazy, passionate and really confident ones pursue. I'll believe it if you say that your fondness for him is reciprocated. But are you sure he likes you as much or even more (if ever love can be quantified)? The fact that it's taking him a long time to break up with his current pineapple of the eye should be indication enough.

Mistake number 2: Deceiving her little sister. I'm sure you were just being cute and playing big sister, but don't break the little girl's heart with promises you yourself know you can't keep. Most of all, don't deceive yourself. Don't perform cartwheels with one hand, thinking that you'll end up with him in front of a priest just because his relatives like you.

Mistake number 3: Letting go of what you have despite not being assured of a replacement. In these times, you should learn how to play it safe.

I know you're being fair to your boyfriend but be fair to yourself as well by making sure you won't end up empty-handed.

It seems like you don't love your ex-boyfriend considering how easy it was for you to break up with him. Or maybe it's because you have built a shrine for that Eastwood guy. Think if you have a real future with the stranger you've just met. Give him a deadline. If he doesn't leave his girlfriend for you, it just goes to show who he really wants to be with. If this happens, figure out if reconciling with your ex-bf is a good idea, considering how you heartlessly dumped him. If you can't conjure an image of you guys going back into each other's arms, then go find another one.

MARK

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

In love, no one is ever surely yours.

It might feel romantic and terribly youthful to throw away all your cares and plunge head-first into a new and uncertain relationship. But then, as always, reality butts in. And the reality in your situation is that for a supposed-to-be mutual relationship, you're the only one who has done your share of the deal.

The guy, on the other hand, has you wrapped around his little finger and he is still saved from being the dumper-jerk to his current girlfriend. Look, he can't have his cake and eat it, too, especially at your expense. Forget his family and forget his cute little sister; they're not the ones who'll promise you true love. Take off those rose-colored glasses first so you can honestly judge if the whole affair is, indeed, fair.

Once you do—and I'm sure you would, if you were a rational self-loving person—then you can start to make changes that will finally be good for you.

SEPTEMBER

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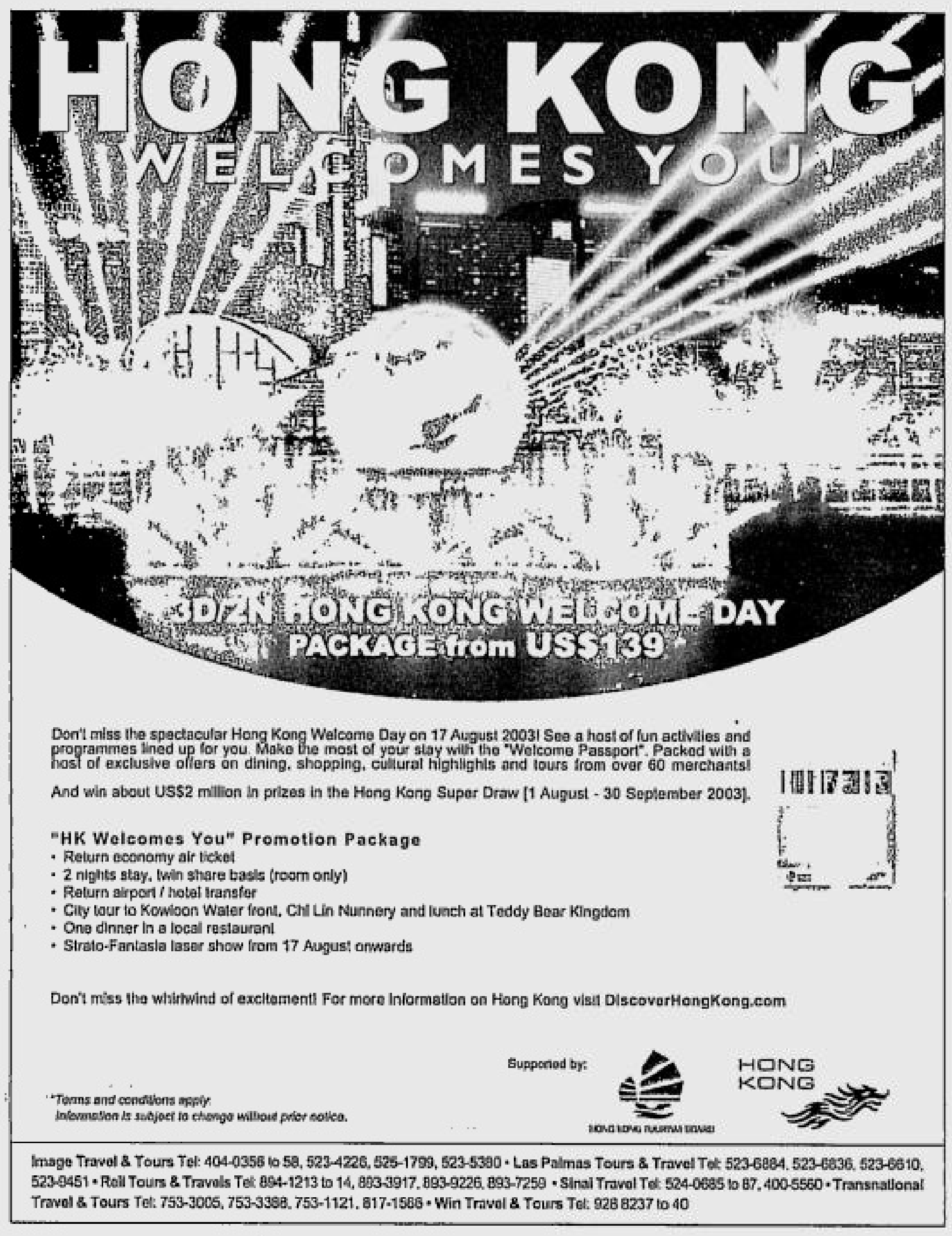

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VIDIOT BOX

Lessons from the ladies' music vids

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

Ditch the martyr pose, but don't flaunt your bra straps either

'Stuck'

Stacie Orrico

SEVENTEENER Stacie looks like a dark-haired Christina Aguilera back when she was simply blonde and singing about rubbing lamps, and strangely sounds like a wannabe Xtina who can't sing.

For the "Stuck" video, an alarm clock wakes up Stacie, whose hair looks amazing, as if she spent the night sleeping in a vertical position. She knocks off a picture frame (or "photo frame" as most Pinoys would say) containing an image of a guy, proceeds to a mirror that houses more pics of the guy and writes "stuck" using a probably cheap lipstick.

Riding a bus to school, Stacie encounters the guy she's obsessed with, and all of a sudden, memories come in torrents. Like when they used to walk hand-in-hand amid all these stereotypes, including this macho butch-ie girl who amazingly looks like a blonde Pink.

NOT Ate Glow but Stacie

Stacie remembers how she'd watch him play basketball and make a fool of himself, and still end up giving him the smile of all smiles, how they'd hurt Mother Nature by carving their initials (complete with a heart) on a tree bark.

Most importantly, she remembers prepping up for a dance and trying to look like Sophie-Ellis Bextor, only to arrive at the event and find out that her guy is sweet-dancing someone else, probably because her alarm clock failed her this time.

Lesson: Staying stuck on someone who obviously wants someone else is a clear indication of martyrdom. The sooner you get off such a bus, the sooner you'll get somewhere. Oh, and be punctual, too:

'Are You Happy Now'

Michelle Branch

The debut single from the new Michelle Branch album (titled "Hotel Paper," because she wrote most of the songs on hotel paper) has an accompanying video that is gothic in feel. It's a bit blurry, too, but maybe that's some wonderful visual effect that I mistook for inefficiency.

It starts off with some silent movie soundtrack playing while Michelle super-emotes and stares at the camera as if connecting with each and every viewer.

Then, she's seated on some bench and starts to do her thing, which is basically lip-synching and showing off tarot cards.

NOT Ara Mina but Michelle

In some parts of the video, she continues singing her song with some hand gestures that scream, "Every word I sing came from my heart and I want you to know that this song is for you and that I hope you get the message and that... "

Those who are observant will note that the background changes often and without warning. Then comes the moment when Michelle Branch splits in two: sepia Michelle and glowing black-and-white Michelle. They try to out-sing and out-gesture one another, but nobody really pays attention as to who won and lost.

Lesson: Even if you have built a shrine for Michelle Branch and have vowed to be like her in every way, at least don't flaunt your bra straps because you live in the Philippines and you don't want morons to label you as a whore and rape you.

E-mail the author at katotino@yahoo.com

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TELLY WEEKLY

Sean Paul, Vic Zhou and Pinoy reality TV

TV SCREEN sex god of the moment: Sean Paul. With his infectious beats, catchy melodies, sexy moves and Jamaican accent, this droolworthy dude has proven he's as hot as Shaggy, only better-looking. With a feature on MTV Alert, a collaboration with Blu Cantrell and so much more in store for everyone, Sean Paul is surely a presence onscreen.

Pinoy reality TV

The long-standing fad is finally hitting our shores through GMA's Extra Challenge. A couple of weeks ago, four heavy girls, with the same intention of losing weight, were lumped together for 10 days and tasked to do a list of calorie-burning activities. Every tear-filled moment was caught on tape as viewers witnessed segments of friction and breakdown.

The lowdown, however, was the scriptwriter's usage of words like "hebigats" and "mala-dinosaur," which I'm sure were not compliments.

If you think the challenge's concept was offensive and discriminating, then we all have to check out the succeeding challenges in store for reality TV freaks. It's just a shame that the show has been transferred to a sleepy time slot, hindering a lot of people from enjoying the show, especially the episode where they challenged three people to pose as corpses!

Ad of the moment

The new Libresse ad features John Lloyd Cruz. Although the idea of using men as endorsers of such feminine products is new to Pinoy TV screens, the commercial's approach, concept and the talent's delivery of lines are reminiscent of the brand's previous ads.

Vidiot box

After shocking everyone with the clothes that she's been wearing in her recent videos, fashion victim Xtina is back with yet another talked-about outfit through the new video, "Can't Hold Us Down."

Garbed eternally in pink—a tube top, a sleeveless jacket (which is uhm... a vest?) and skimpy shorts with a slit as long as forever—Xtina gets butt-pinched by a topless guy. As she confronts the horny and disrespectful guy, the crowd thickens and a showdown between the boys and girls ensues.

The vid's highlight has got to be a toss between the part when Xtina uhm... fondles the hose and the one when she uhm... thrusts against it. But despite the eye-shocking clothes and surprising visuals, Xtina definitely deserves major hand-numbing applause for her songs with strong message content.

Program of the moment

"The Poor Prince," starring Vic Zhou, one of the F4 heartthrobs, is one of the most entertaining TV shows. It revolves around a student whose focus in life is to hunt for food, as the family's breadwinner. Although pathetic in some light, it sure is funny whenever the poor prince does certain favors just for food, or whenever he exclaims his gratitude every time he's given food no matter how small.

Another aspect of the show that has been tickling everybody is the love angle between the poor prince and a rich, macho guy who happens to be gay. Although the main character is straight and therefore not romantically attracted to his secret admirer, the ongoing friction and chemistry between the guys keep a lot of viewers stuck on the show. Add dream sequences, voice-overs, flying hearts and other Ally McBeal-ish extras, the show is not only must-see; it's also a must-follow.

Commercial model of the moment

Starring in three commercials being aired all at the same time, the face of the moment is that of a lady who has cropped hair, elastic lips and the funniest facial expressions. Although nameless to most viewers, it won't take long before this detergent and multivitamins endorser will be a household name.

Niño Mark M. Sablan

E-mail the author at omark_katot@yahoo.com

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JOANNA ZUNIGA

Pinoy Potterheads celebrate release of Book 5

The Internet-based Pinoy Harry Potter club is structured much like Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

By Maryann F. Ortiz
Contributor

I AM a Harry Potter fan and, like countless other people, I've been impatiently awaiting the release of the fifth book in J.K. Rowling's series. It's been about three years since "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" was released and despite the movies based on the first two books, Potterheads have been dying to know what will happen during Harry's fifth year at Hogwarts.

The Internet was where fans converged these past few years. Groups, websites, and mailing lists cropped up allowing fans to interact with each other and share ideas while waiting for the new book. One of them brought together Filipino fans from different parts of the world, of different ages, backgrounds and professions.

The Pinoy Harry Potter group (PHP) founded in 2001 is an Internet-based club and is structured much like Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. It is run by professors and members are sorted into houses, earn points, play Quidditch, and participate in fun activities.

Last March, PHP took part in "New Worlds," the first Philippine Science Fiction and Fantasy Convention. It is also now a member of the New Worlds Alliance of five other locally-based sci-fi and fantasy fan groups.

PHP's participation in New Worlds gave the members, according to founder and headmistress Cherie del Rio, "the confidence to step out of Internet Hogwarts and into the bright muggle world." It encouraged the group to plan a party to celebrate the release of "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix".

Party planning

As the elected head girl, I was involved in much of the planning and preparations for what was then dubbed as the Phoenix Party. I was excited for two reasons. First, we were finally going to read Book 5, and party at the same time. Second, I was going to work with the people in PHP.

Since it was the group's only second major activity, it was my first time to meet most of the other members. Planning meetings gave members the chance to earn house points. Idea contributions also did the same. There was friendly rivalry among the different houses as people exchanged Book 5 news and trivia, discussed intriguing threads in online forums, kept abreast of casting news for the upcoming Harry Potter movie, and swapped stories about their Potter memorabilia.

Everyone was so excited, coming up with fantastic ideas, volunteering time and resources to help make the event a reality. We had to coordinate with Scholastic, the books' American publishers; Bates Licensing; and our sponsor, Fully Booked (formerly Page One). We were allowed to accept reservations for the book for those who wanted to get their copies on the worldwide release date of June 21, which coincided with our "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" party.

I remember an excited shiver as I saw boxes of Book 5 one evening during our set-up sessions at Fully Booked. Running my hand reverently over one of them, I could hear a voice saying "My preciousssss" in my ears. I imme-

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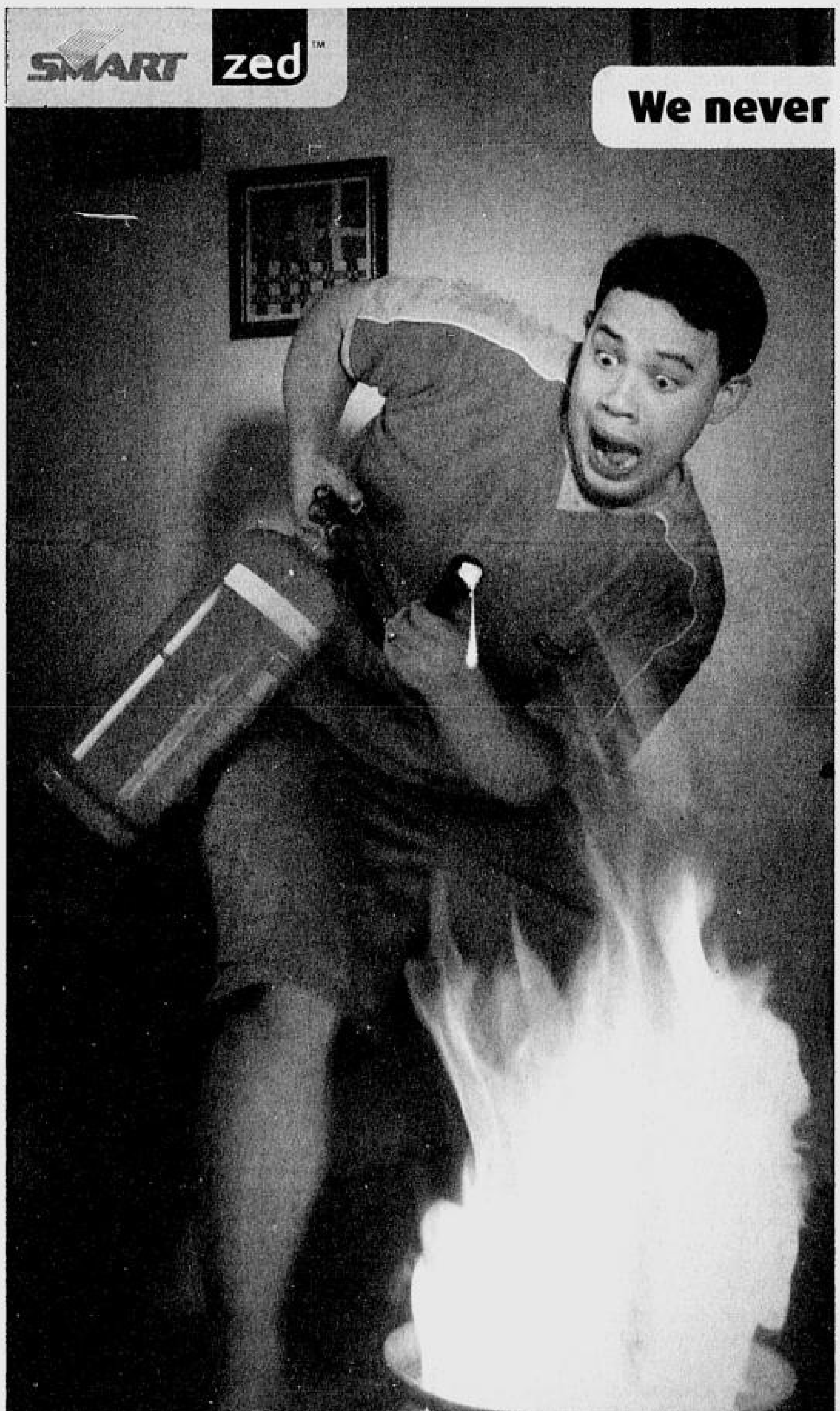

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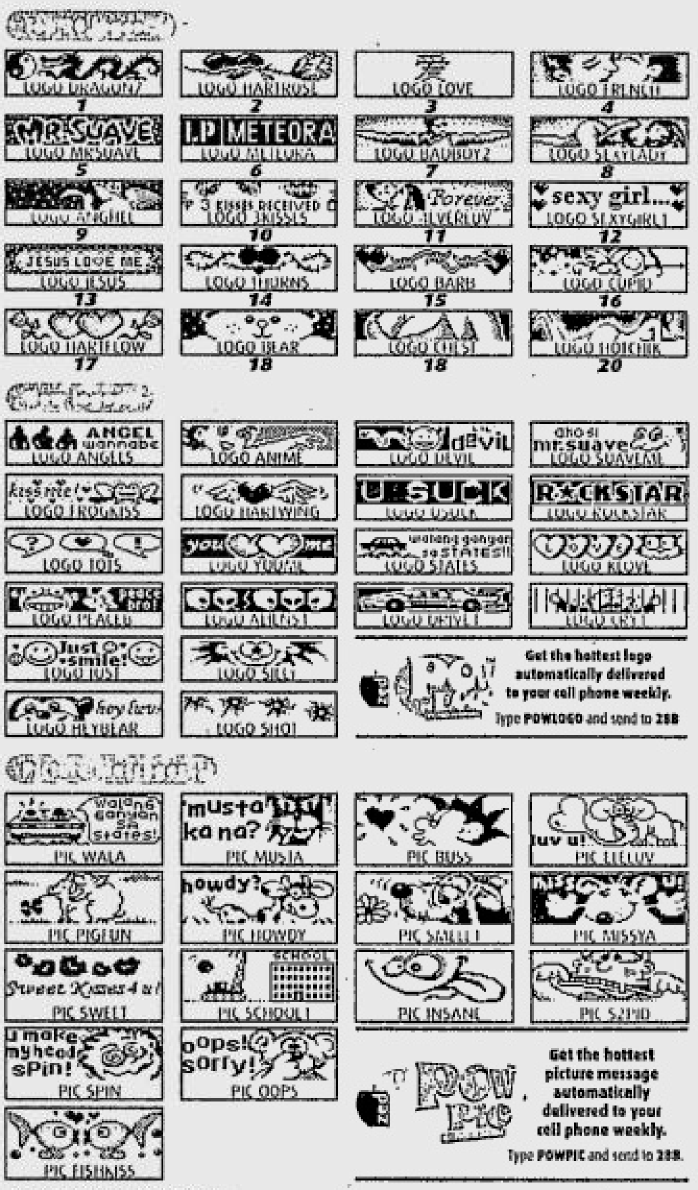

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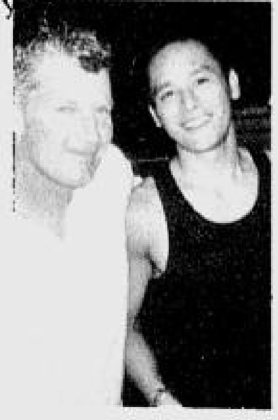
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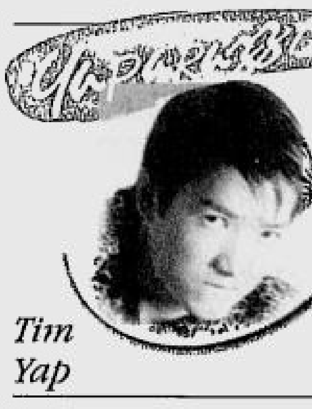
Boracay's not-so-secret trash bin


Tim Yap

MY YEARLY pilgrimage to Boracay happens not during Holy Week, when the whole world chooses to inhabit the white sandy shores and riddle it with banners to the death. It also happens during the low season (the wet season or *habagat*), when the tide is high and the weather threatens to unleash a storm, and Boracay is nearly empty and thus, extremely inviting.

The wet-season lull in Boracay gives the urban reveler the much-needed break from all things "city." During these season, it's best to just sit on the beach, and observe the waves beating each other to the shore. The sight is enough to propel you to stillness and contemplation.

I thought I had seen every nook and cranny of Boracay until my most recent trip. While I was stalking someone, I went into one of those ethnic-looking boutiques. I found myself in a wonderland of garbage art—stuff that the artist-proprietor seemed to have picked up from his travels around the world.

I stayed there (even if the subject of my stalking had left already) and absorbed the eclectic energy of the artist. Later, I found out through **Galicano Perry Argel**, artist, curator and store owner, that his place is called the Center for Arts Creativity and Consciousness. Next time you're there, do check the place out—it's Bora-boheme at its best.

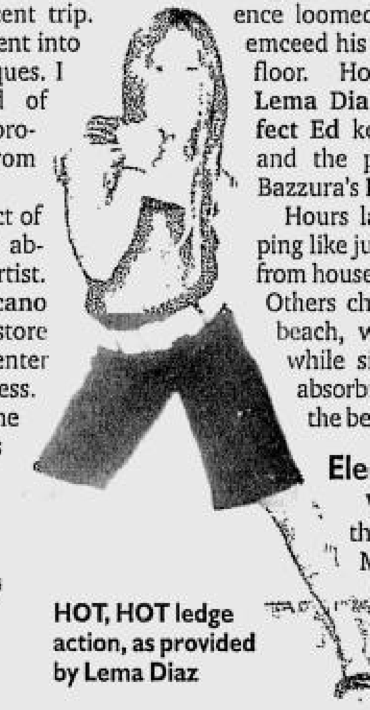
But that was just the bonus side of my trip. The real reason I flew in, despite my toxic schedule, was because it was the anniversary of Bazzura bar—the Boracay dance institution owned by Bora-Brit **Patrick Higgs**. Yearly, he, along with party promoter **Kat Tan**, hosts a big bash for Bazzura's best buddies from the island, high tide or low tide.

That night, it started to rain (as it always does during this time of the year), but that didn't dampen anyone's spirits. I had dinner at the Upper Deck, a leisurely resto on the second floor of Bazzura, then a few drinks at Bombom with some drum-beating boys, met up with DJ **David de Barce** and some other buddies, and then we all went straight to the B bar.

In there was the usual dancefest, with DJs on centerstage, as the Bora party crew of expats and locals grooved, as they always do, like there was no tomorrow.

Angelo Villanueva's voice and presence loomed over the party, as he emceed his way from bar to dancefloor. Hotlegs' hipper-than-hip **Lema Diaz** and Adrenalin's **Perfect Ed** kept the ledge occupied and the partyphiles gyrating to Bazzura's Bora beat.

Hours later, we were still hopping like jukebox whores, grooving from house music to R&B and back. Others chose to just chill on the beach, waiting for the sunrise, while sipping San Miguel and absorbing the good vibe that the beach had so much of.


HOT, HOT ledge action, as provided by Lema Diaz

Electroclash

What I'm excited about this weekend is Solid Soul Movement's Electro Clash party. **Ronald Pasion**, a veteran of the ABG's set of the late '90s, is behind all the action.

The event takes place at Flava, at the Laureano compound, where the former ABG's and Sambos used to hold court. Booths of both independent and commercial music, and fashion labels will also occupy the space. Fashion-forward photographs will be exhibited.

What to expect? An edgy semi-underground scene of hipsters sick of the whole yuppie '80s explosion happening in the bars where the same songs are played over and over again. "When there is always something there to remind me... "

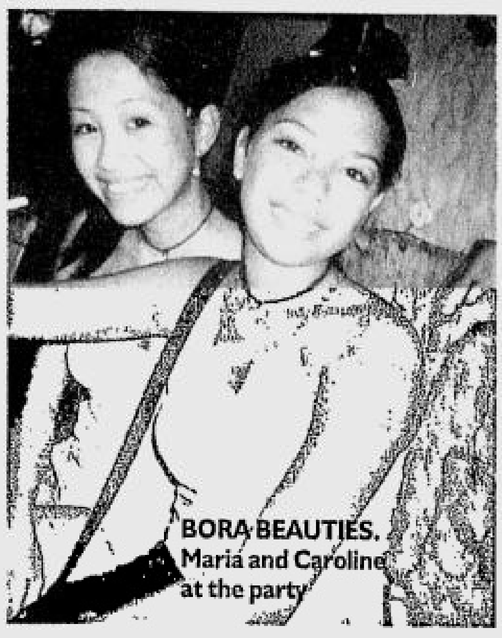
Well, whatever your choice of relaxation is, always remember—"The only thing better than last night is tonight."

Enjoy the week, partyphiles.

The annual Bazzura treat makes the stormy season on the island quite welcome

BORACAY buddy Dato Yap

SPA-RTY! Louise Ravelo of Mandala


BORA BEAUTIES. Maria and Caroline at the party

A-LISTERS. Marco and Carlo Antonio

Beauty products that can transform a look in magical ways

Lora Gabol

BEAUTY products never cease to amaze me. There is something so intriguing about how a seemingly ordinary bottle of goo or a simple little contraption can transform a look in almost magical ways. With a myriad of choices out there, however, picking out honest-to-goodness "miracle workers" from products that are but an "illusion" with attractive packaging can prove to be quite a feat. Lucky for you, some people (ahem, people like me) work to make challenges like these easier. I present my personal list of stuff that have set themselves apart from the rest of the overpopulated beauty product pack. Definitely not your typical…

Moisturizer

Lancôme Vinefit Energising Moisturizer. This fruity lotion literally "wakes up" any complexion better than a splash of cool water and an ice-cube massage. Rich in Grape Polyphenols, known to be powerful anti-oxidants (Read: helps make skin less susceptible to damaging pollution), Vinefit turns lackluster skin bright and luminous with regular use. It also gives off a lovely sheen (no greasy shine here) for an all-day glow. Best of all, it has SPF 15, making it the perfect, all-in-one finish for your AM beauty regimen. Did I mention it smells delectable, too?

Lancôme Hydra Zen De-Stressing Moisturizer. They didn't throw in "Zen" there for nothing. Treat tired skin with this calming moisturizer that should be part of every woman-on-the-go's dresser. It is the perfect complexion ally when school-paper all-nighters and late martini night-outs fill your sked. Refreshing and definitely relaxing (it even smells like a spa treatment), this wonderful pre-bedtime moisturizer sends you off to tranquility even when the world harasses you more than it should.

Avon Anew Pure O2 Oxygenating Youth Cream. Ok, so we don't exactly need a "youth" cream just yet, but I couldn't help treating my skin to a pot of this oxygen-rich product. For those of you who haven't heard, pure oxygen is probably the best all-natural cure-all for any skin type—it boosts skin renewal and purifies each and every pore. This will make your complexion feel really clean, you wouldn't want to put anything else on it. Best for days you just want to treat your face to a day-off.

Concealer

Shu Uemura Eye-Correcting Pro Concealer. No, these tiny compacts aren't ice-cream colored eyeshadows. Makeup Legend Shu Uemura once again does women's faces a favor with his Eye-Correcting Pro Concealer, a palette of four shades (yellow, orange, mauve and white—each customized for every eye area problem) that cleverly covers up and brightens even the darkest undereye area. This ingenious must-have marries makeup with skincare once again, as botanical extracts moisturize and boost circulation as well. Perfect for those much-neglected circles and fine lines.

Powder compact

Smashbox Anti-shine Compact. This is not your everyday powder because it is not a powder. Well, not really. This transparent mattifier that comes in a convenient little compact battles shine and prevents oil slicks at the same time. It doesn't pile up on your face and cake, nor does it clog and suffocate your pores. This is one prod that is satisfied with just doing the job. Men, rejoice! Look suave and grease-free without the embarrassing makeup dependence with this compact. Harrison Ford is rumored to love this baby.

Foundation

Max Factor Hyper Smooth Makeup. Botox in a foundation? You better believe it. This velvety liquid base plumps up every cell on your face for a smoother, suppler effect and the best canvas for color, all without sacrificing much-needed coverage. The only glitch? No chemical SPF, so I suggest you use it on a night-out when the sun can't do your skin any harm.

L'Oreal Ideal Balance Unifying and Balancing Foundation with SPF 10. Finally, a liquid foundation for split-personality skin. Ultra-light and fresh, Ideal Balance hydrates rough and dry patches while keeping glare-prone areas matte for an even all-over look. Sufficiently disguises minor blemishes, too, but you can try the two-way formula for heavier coverage.

Makeup palette

VMV Hypoallergenics Skin Fit Makeup. For goof-proof mix and matching, grab one of these pre-perfected color palettes that suit Asian skin to a T. I especially love its Fall 2003 "Mod Doll" collection made up of sultry navy, gray and taupe for high-drama eyes, and neutral shades for subdued, lightly-glazed lips. VMV's palettes also prove to be the most convenient with its stack-up feature that saves you a lot of space.

Lip gloss

Estée Lauder Pure Color Lip Vinyl. Sure, its way adorable packaging makes it a fashionista fave, but these blocks of gloss really deliver that luscious wet look to your smoocher. Pucker up!

Nail polish

L'Oreal Chrome Shine Metallic Nail Varnish. For traffic-stopping, high-shine nails, paint on a coat or two of Chrome Shine in a high-impact shade. Mirror-like and ultra glamorous, it's the perfect choice for those who are absolutely tired of clear polish and French tips. Let your digits do the talking!

Eyelash Curler

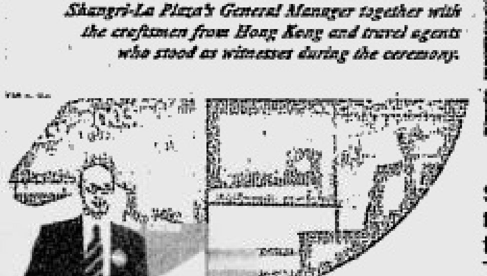
Avon Battery-operated Eyelash Curler. Speaking of amazing, every girl should get herself one of these! It makes genius use of heat to set the flirtiest curl ever—all on two tiny batteries. It comes in its own pouch with a bonus of tweezers and a sharpener for all your makeup pencils.

Avon at the Avon Boutique in SM Megamall and selected department stores; Shu Uemura, Lancôme and Estée Lauder at Rustan's; Smashbox at the Beauty Bar; VMV Hypoallergenics at Watson's and leading department stores; L'Oreal at PCX and other health and beauty stores; L'Oreal Professionel at high-end salons.

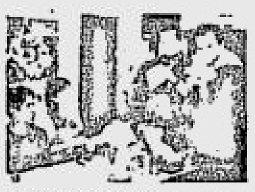
E-mail the author at pdi_vanityfare@hotmail.com

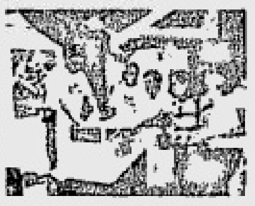
HONG KONG FAIR Draws Warm Welcome

A ribbon-cutting ceremony led by Hong Kong Tourism Board's David Leung, Regional Director for South and Southeast Asia and Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office's Grace Kwok, Acting Director opened the HK Welcomes You! Fair on August 2 followed by a roaring lion dance. Photo shows Lawrence Fong, Cathay Pacific's Cebu Manager (2nd from left), Kwok, Leung, and Lala Fojas, Shangri-La Plaza's General Manager together with the craftsmen from Hong Kong and travel agents who stood as witnesses during the ceremony.


HKTB's David Leung welcomes the fairgoers at the start of the 2-day event.

Eric and Epi Quizon drop by the Teddy Bear Kingdom booth to check out the hand-made bears.


The Dragon Beard Candy Maker amazes fair goers by turning a rock-hard piece of sugar into thread-like sweets.


A fairgoer shows off her profile cut out by the Silhouette Cutter.

HK Fortune Teller shares with program host Eric Quizon what the future holds for him.

Shangri-La Plaza mall goers were recently treated to a weekend of fascinating and fun-filled Hong Kong attractions when the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) and the Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office (HKETO), in cooperation with Cathay Pacific Airways, brought the *HK Welcomes You!* Fair to Manila.

The first in a series of road shows being held across the region, the Fair was held in conjunction with the ongoing *Hong Kong Welcomes You!* Promotion.

Participating in the Fair were craft demonstrators who specially flew in from Hong Kong and they impressed the crowd with their unique skills. One of Hong Kong's newest attractions, Teddy Bear Kingdom, as well as one of the city's most well known attractions, The Peak, also participated in the Fair.

On hand to entertain the crowd were Roadtrip's Eric and Epi Quizon, who shared their very own Hong Kong experiences convincing the crowd that it is a great time to visit Hong Kong. Special packages to Hong Kong were offered onsite by travel agents with a host of tempting free offers available for redemption upon purchase of a HK package. Over 300 packages were sold throughout the 2-day event.

The ongoing *Hong Kong Welcomes You!* promotion features a two-month long "Welcome Month" launched on 13 July and will run until 15 September. The special welcome has been rolled out to make one's visit more exciting than ever. Irresistible air and hotel offers are available through the travel agents, along with a series of special dining and shopping privileges packed in the Welcome Passport as well as the Hong Kong Super Draw offering more than HK$15 million worth of prizes.

The special Welcome Day on 17 August will kick off the launch of a spectacular laser show, StratoFantasia, at the Wanchai harbourfront. There is also a series of mega events and promotions running from mid-August until the end of March 2004 like the Mid-Autumn Lantern Celebration, Hong Kong Winterfest, International Chinese New Year Night Parade and the Avenue of Stars pre-launch.

The HKTB thanks the support of partners including Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, Cathay Pacific Airways, Ark Travel Express Inc., Horizon Travel and Tours Inc., Las Palmas Tours and Travel, Pan Pacific Travel Corp., Uni-Orient Travel Inc., and most importantly, the consumers for the success of the Hong Kong Welcomes You Fair.

HONG KONG TOURISM BOARD

Pinoy Potterheads celebrate release of Book 5

PARTICIPANTS design their own Wizard hats.
PHOTOS: MARYANN ORTZ

From page D1

diately pulled my hand away, as I read: "Do not open until June 21". I almost expected to be jinxed by some protective spell cast on the boxes.

Typical fan

On June 21, we all woke up early to get to the Power Plant Mall to help the staff set up the display. Fans were already standing in line when the store opened at 7:01 a.m.

As I walked with PHP's gamekeeper and fellow organizer, Paolo Jalbuena, to get some coffee, I caught a glimpse of a girl exhibiting typical Potter fanatic behavior. She sat at Press Café opened her book and immediately looked at the last few pages.

At first, it was difficult to get both kids and adults to sign up for the activities. Everyone just wanted to get a book and go somewhere to read it. Some stayed only until winners of the "Win a copy of Book 5" raffles were announced.

Fans who wanted to join the activities were escorted by PHP members to the Sorting Area. As they sat on the Sorting Stool, the Sorting Hat was put over their heads. PHP's Gryffindor House even got a celebrity, singer Lani Misalucha, who gladly obliged when some members asked if she wanted to get sorted.

Some children joined us in playing "Mugglephone," which was actually "Pass the Message," Potter style; and "The Story Continues," where they got to write their own version of Book 5.

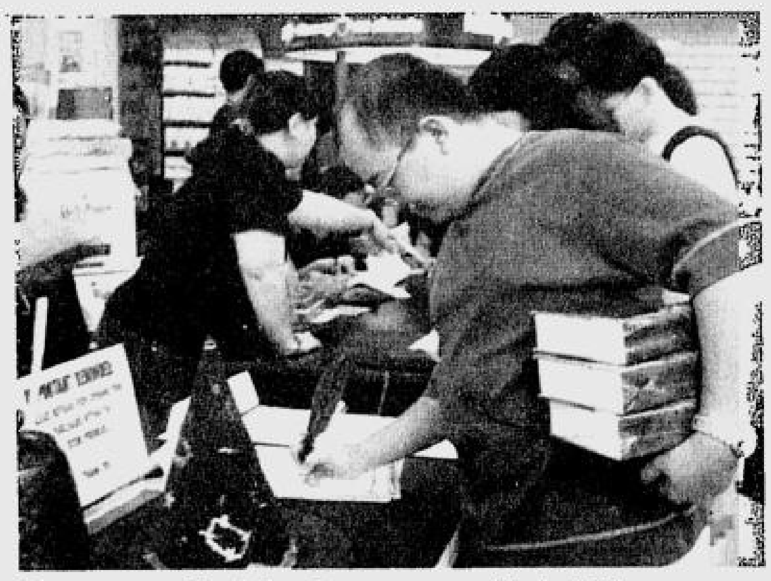
The more artistic joined the "Wizard hat and wand making competition," which had comic book artist, Gary Mayoralgo, a resident PHP Slytherin and exchange student from Durmstrang, as judge.

Most of the fans apparently went to the party to interact with each other. Many people were surprised that Pinoy Harry Potter existed. By the end of the day, everyone was tired, but happy.

The Party is long over, and I've read my way through Book 5 as fast as I could and I am now in the process of rereading.

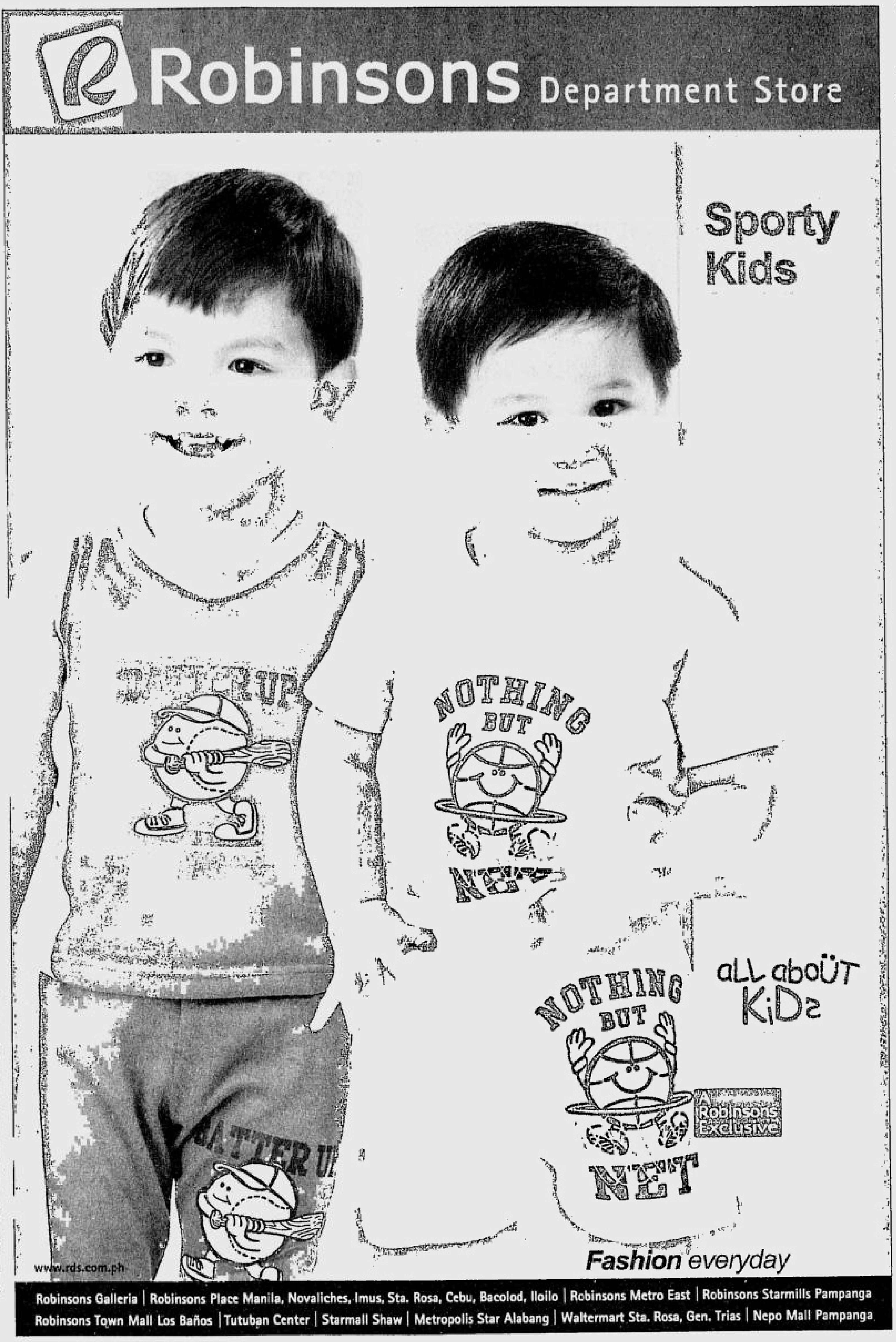
Discussions about the book are flourishing in PHP's online forum as, once more, the fans have something to talk about and share among themselves.

The Harry Potter phenomenon and its effects on fans is amazing. And I'm happy to see kids and adults alike discovering or rediscovering a love for reading



IF you ran out of Book 5 copies, you may want to look this guy up.

LANI Misalucha gets gobbled by the Sorting Hat.



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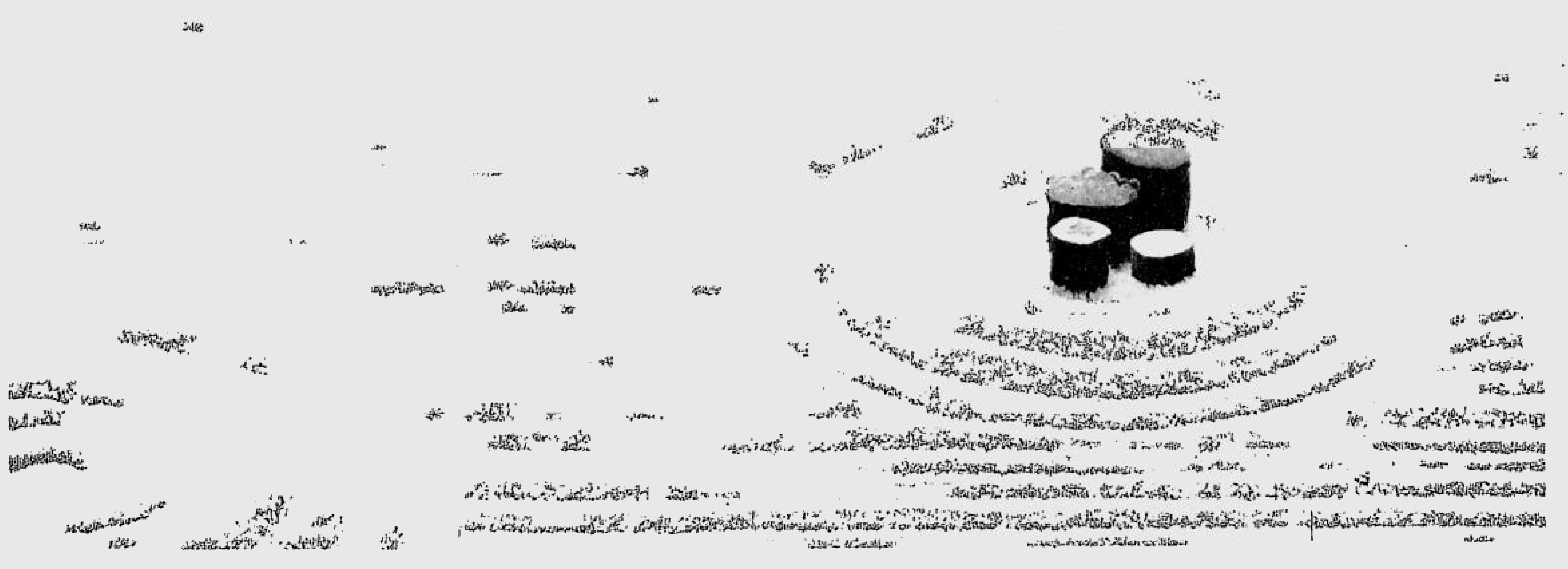
Robinsons Town Mall Los Baños | Tutuban Center | Starmall Shaw | Metropolis Star Alabang | Waltermart Sta. Rosa, Gen. Trias | Nepo Mall Pampanga



Everything is authentic Japanese, from the food to the mood. EDSA Shangri-La brings back the glory of Japanese dining with the opening of Nishiki. From the Zen sculpture to the bamboo accents, the flavor of Japan surrounds you as you dine at the sushi bar, Teppanyaki tables, or any of our private rooms. You'll enjoy new signature dishes, as well as the traditional favorites, prepared by our renowned Japanese chefs. Call 634-7373 or 633-8888 ext 2738 and 2739 and we'll reserve a setting for you.

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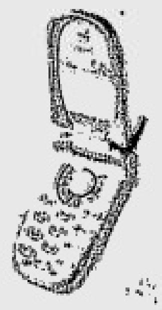
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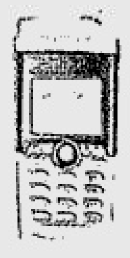
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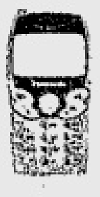
PANASONIC GD55
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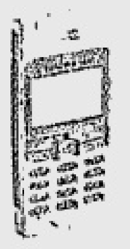
SONY ERICSSON T 100
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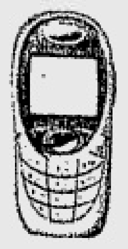
SIEMENS S57
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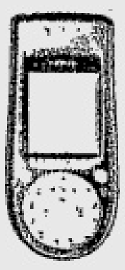
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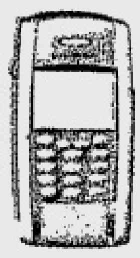
SONY ERICSSON P800
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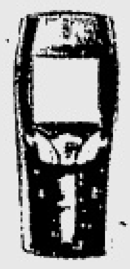
NOKIA 7250i
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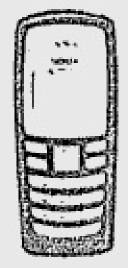
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		Plan 250	Plan 600	Plan 1000	Plan 2000	Plan 3500	Plan 250	Plan 600	Plan 1000	Plan 2000	Plan 3500
Sony Ericsson T100	5,690	2,000	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Panasonic GD55	7,290	4.500	3,750	2,250	FREE	FREE	2,750	1,000	FREE	FREE	FREE
Panasonic GD68	23,890	19,000	17,000	8,750	2,000	FREE	18,000	16,000	8,000	1,000	FREE
Nokia 6610	20,790	16,000	10,000	3,000	FREE	FREE	15,000	9,000	FREE	FREE	FREE
Siemens CL50	15,990	13,500	10,500	7,000	4,000	FREE	12,000	9,500	6,000	FREE	FREE
Siemens S57	18,190	13,000	12,000	8,000	3,000	FREE	12,000	11,000	6,500	FREE	FREE
Nokia 3650	25,490	18,850	15,000	9,500	4,000	FREE	17,500	13,500	8,000	2,000	FREE
Sony Ericsson P800	34,990	32,750	28,000	25,000	18,000	FREE	30,500	27,000	21,000	12,000	FREE
Nokia 6800	22,090	19,000	15,500	9,500	FREE	FREE	16,750	14,500	7,000	FREE	FREE
Sony Ericsson T310	9,890	8,500	3,500	FREE	FREE	FREE	7,000	3,000	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 3300	16,890	16,000	13,500	11,500	7,500	FREE	14,500	12,500	2,000	FREE	FREE
Sony Ericsson T610	19,390	19,000	14,000	9,500	4,000	FREE	17,250	13,000	8,000	2,000	FREE
Nokia 7250i	22,990	21,000	17,000	13,000	FREE	FREE	18,750	16,000	9,000	FREE	FREE
Nokia 2100	5,990	1,750	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	500	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE

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Online all the time

By Pam Pastor

WHEN Alexander Graham Bell changed the way human beings communicated with his creation of the now-taken-for-granted telephone in 1876, the world rejoiced.

People probably had no idea that things could still get much better. Over a century later, the Internet revolution again caused a paradigm shift in the world of communication.

There was one problem though. Since telephone lines were necessary to use the Internet, lines were tied up. People were left to choose between the phone and Internet, with some opting to install second telephone lines—one for regular telephone use and the other for connecting to the worldwide web.

But not anymore, not with the advent of DSL.

DSL, or Digital Subscriber Line, is a high-speed transmission technology that permits users to make calls and surf the worldwide web simultaneously.

Globelines, the landline telephone service of Globe Telecom, launched its DSL service in Cebu City last week with a Matrix-themed cocktail party.

Guests, who were asked to come in black, were able to witness demonstrations of the powers of DSL and tried to beat each other at games.

As Antonio Mapa, head of marketing, Globe Wireline Voice, put it, "We aim to contribute to the economic progress of this region by continuously building out modern telecom infrastructure which others regard as the backbone of any economic development. To further our commitment, we now make available our Globelines DSL Internet service in Cebu."

The same service was launched in Manila in August 2002.

High speed

DSL technology has the power to transform the common copper telephone line into a high-speed data line. This service enables users to make voice calls or send and receive faxes while using the Internet.

Targeting heavy residential users and small to medium businesses, Globelines DSL promises to provide the fastest home Internet access for its users. With speed as fast as 384 kilobytes per second, the tech-savvy can enjoy quick downloads, easy and unlimited browsing of even the most graphic-intensive and Flash-loaded websites and endless network gaming fun.

Globelines DSL offers unmatched download time, claiming it can enable a user to download an MP3 in 1.4 minutes while other DSL providers need 2.3 minutes.

As opposed to dial-up Internet services that charge by the minute, Globelines DSL has a fixed service fee of P3,000 per month—for both Globelines and DSL services.

Three thousand pesos may seem to be steep, but not when you realize how much your normal Internet junkie pays for heavy dial-up usage with speed that does not even rise above 56 kilobytes per second. DSL provides constant connection 24/7, without the hassle of busy lines and countless failed attempts to connect.

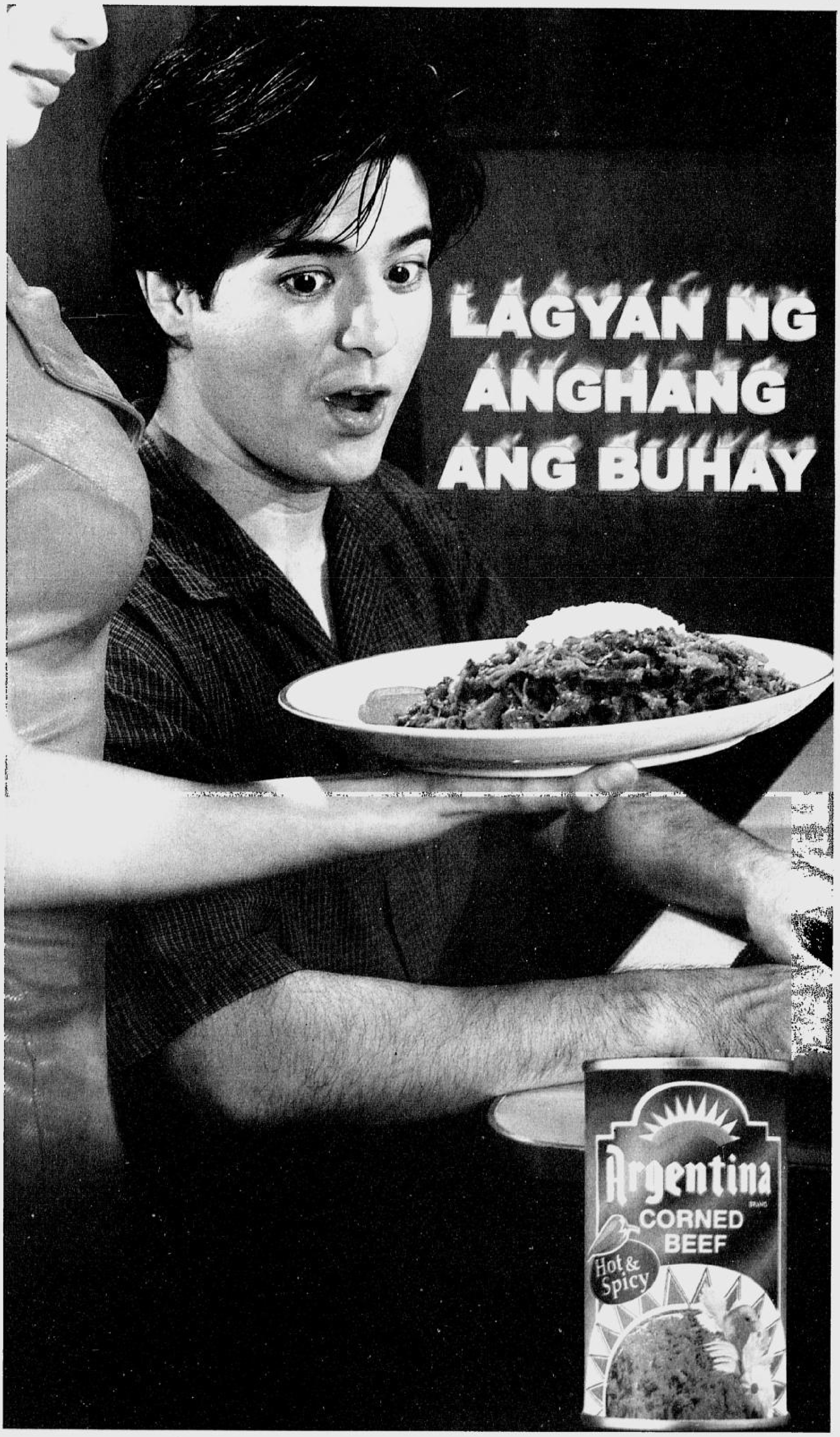
It's also a good deal, if only because other DSL providers charge for the DSL and phone service separately.

Requirements

Users who wish to avail of this service are required to have a Globelines subscription and a computer with the necessary specs.

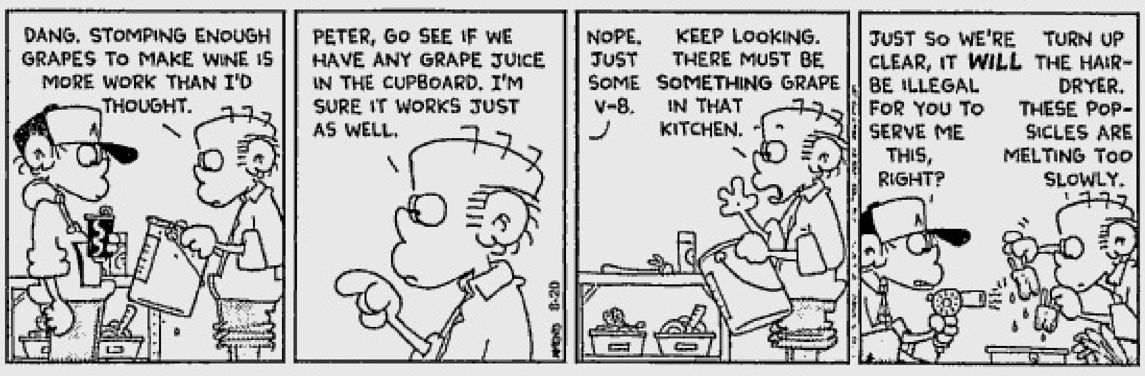
For PC—Pentium-class 166 Mhz or faster, Windows 98SE/ME/XP or Windows 2000, Netscape Navigator 5 or Microsoft Internet Explorer v. 5 and up, CD-ROM or DVD Drive, 100 MB of free disk space, at least 64MB RAM and a high-powered USB Port.

ONLINE/ E3



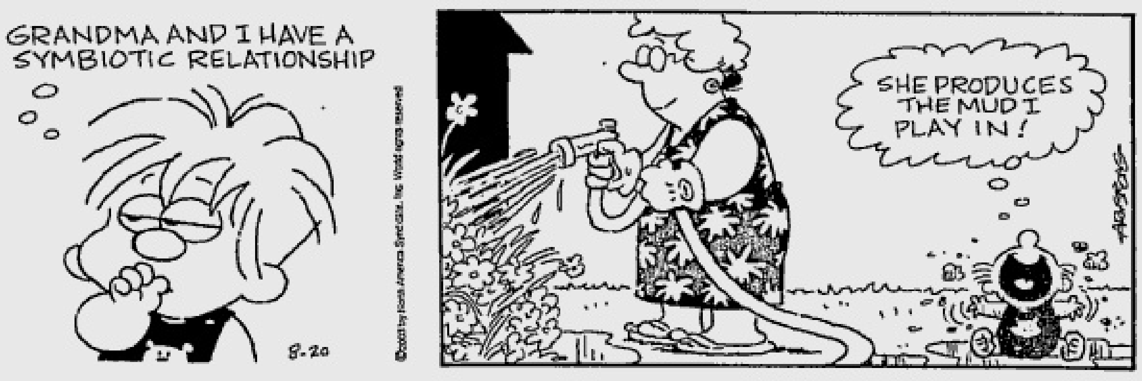
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


DANG. STOMPING ENOUGH GRAPES TO MAKE WINE IS MORE WORK THAN I'D THOUGHT.
PETER, GO SEE IF WE HAVE ANY GRAPE JUICE IN THE CUPBOARD. I'M SURE IT WORKS JUST AS WELL.
NOPE. JUST SOME V-8.
KEEP LOOKING. THERE MUST BE SOMETHING GRAPE IN THAT KITCHEN.
JUST SO WE'RE CLEAR, IT WILL BE ILLEGAL FOR YOU TO SERVE ME THIS, RIGHT?
TURN UP THE HAIR-DRYER. THESE POPSICLES ARE MELTING TOO SLOWLY.
8-20

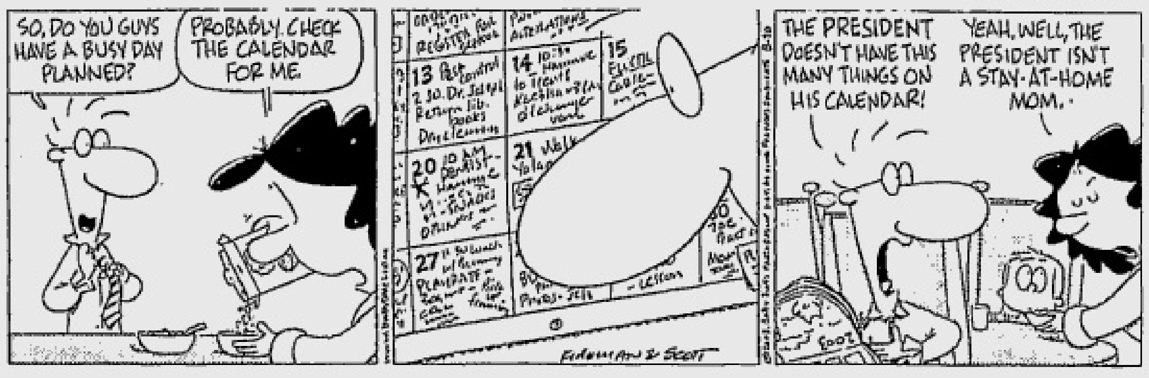
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


GRANDMA AND I HAVE A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP
SHE PRODUCES THE MUD I PLAY IN!
8-20

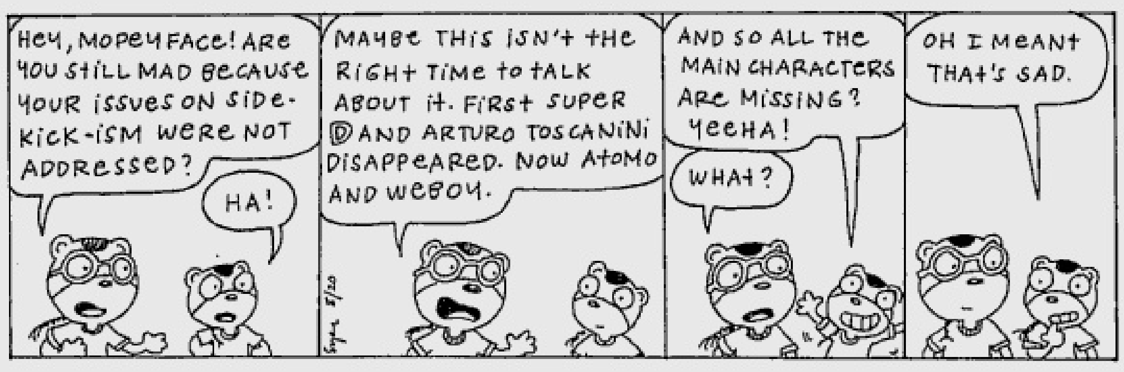
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


SO, DO YOU GUYS HAVE A BUSY DAY PLANNED?
PROBABLY. CHECK THE CALENDAR FOR ME.
THE PRESIDENT DOESN'T HAVE THIS MANY THINGS ON HIS CALENDAR!
YEAH, WELL, THE PRESIDENT ISN'T A STAY-AT-HOME MOM.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HEY, MOPEYFACE! ARE YOU STILL MAD BECAUSE YOUR ISSUES ON SIDEKICK-ISM WERE NOT ADDRESSED?
HA!
MAYBE THIS ISN'T THE RIGHT TIME TO TALK ABOUT IT. FIRST SUPER D AND ARTURO TOSCANINI DISAPPEARED. NOW ATOMO AND WEBOY.
AND SO ALL THE MAIN CHARACTERS ARE MISSING? YEEHA!
WHAT?
OH I MEANT THAT'S SAD.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Events that propel you forward are often rooted in the past. You can be fearless when facing your secrets. They make you empathetic and courageous. You have a vivid imagination and can use it in the arts or in business. You are generally quiet and soft-spoken. The year ahead focuses on close partnerships and marriage.
Birthdate of: Isaac Hayes, musician; Theresa Saldana, actress; Connie Chung, TV journalist.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is an extremely creative and romantic day for you. Some might find new love. Playful activities with children are pleasing. In fact, these wonderful vibes continue into tomorrow. Enjoy the day!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a marvelous day for real estate deals or doing anything to enhance your family relationships or your home. Buy gifts or pleasant items for home and family. You won't regret it.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Conversations are cheerful, optimistic and upbeat today. Enjoy chatting with colleagues, casual acquaintances, relatives and siblings. Get out and enjoy yourself!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is a great day to make money! It's also a good day to spend it. Whatever you buy will give you pleasure. Investments are also favored.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You feel unusually warmhearted and open to everyone you meet today. It's easy to talk to people. You enjoy others, and in turn, you feel loved.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a special day in a quiet way. You feel happier than usual. It's as if you're not afraid to expect more for yourself out of life. You see that limitations you thought were imposed from without are actually imposed from within.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a great day for all types of relationships—professional or personal, social or intimate. Celebrations and get-togethers will be pleasantly successful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Wonderful day for business! You find it easy to present your ideas to important people, because you see immediately that they are impressed with what you have to say.

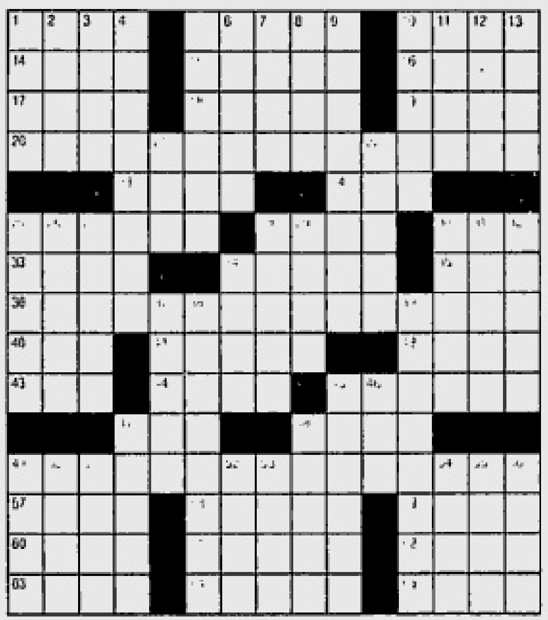
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Travel anywhere will delight you today. If you cannot travel physically, then travel through books, film or talking to people from other cultures.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Others are willing to help you today. Expect to receive a gift, some practical assistance or aid in some way. This is a good day to ask for a loan or to borrow something.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is an excellent day for a wedding. In fact, it's an excellent day for all partnerships and close friendships. A mutual give-and-take flows easily.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Co-workers are unusually supportive and friendly today. Your good mood is infectious. You might encounter a sudden windfall that delights you.

DAILY CROSSWORD



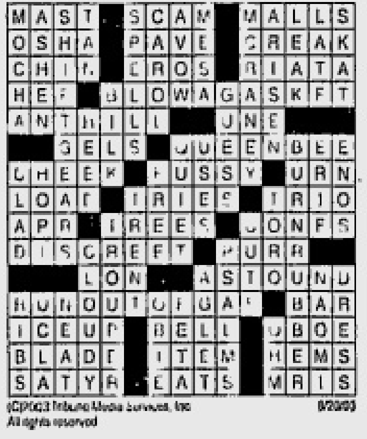
By Jack Hammond
Savannah, GA

8/20/03

ACROSS
1 Once, once
5 Tales on a grand scale
10 11th U.S. president
14 Adidas rival
15 Muse of poetry
16 Elvis Presley's middle name
17 Of the ear
18 Actor Flynn
19 Great review
20 Broadway daytime show
23 West and Jemison
24 Legal thing
25 Yakked
28 Abel's killer
30 CDs' ancestors
33 Tony's cousin?
34 Author of "The Plague"
35 Small island
36 1958 Titanic film, with "A"
40 Old English letter
41 Party-throwers
42 Greek letter
43 Part of AARP
44 Art Deco designer
45 "Lord Jim" author
47 Kind of chart
48 Golfer Isao
49 Symptoms of malaria
57 Inter ___ (among other things)
58 Drench
59 Actor Ladd
60 Old ruler
61 Stranger
62 Dog in "Peter Pan"
63 Long and slippery
64 "Touched by an Angel" star
65 Cut

DOWN
1 Slaughter in Cooperstown
2 Actress Moreno
3 Comic sketch
4 Shawnee leader
5 Sown
6 Tapestry in "Hamlet"
7 Indiana city
8 Molecule part
9 Sunroom
10 "Gigi" setting
11 "The Plague" setting
12 Adore
13 Low joint
21 Actress Charlotte
22 On edge
25 Person past recovery
26 Tolerate
27 Vision
28 __ blanche
29 Iowa State city
30 Heavy work
31 Michelangelo masterpiece
32 Valuable violin, briefly
34 Price
37 "They Died with _ Boots on"
38 Bullfighter
39 Multi-passenger vehicles
45 Stick
46 Japanese island
47 Arctic explorer
48 Nincompoops
49 Destiny
50 Otherwise
51 Small bottle
52 Protuberance
53 Weekend cowboy
54 Enthusiasm
55 Rajah's wife
56 Cinch

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved



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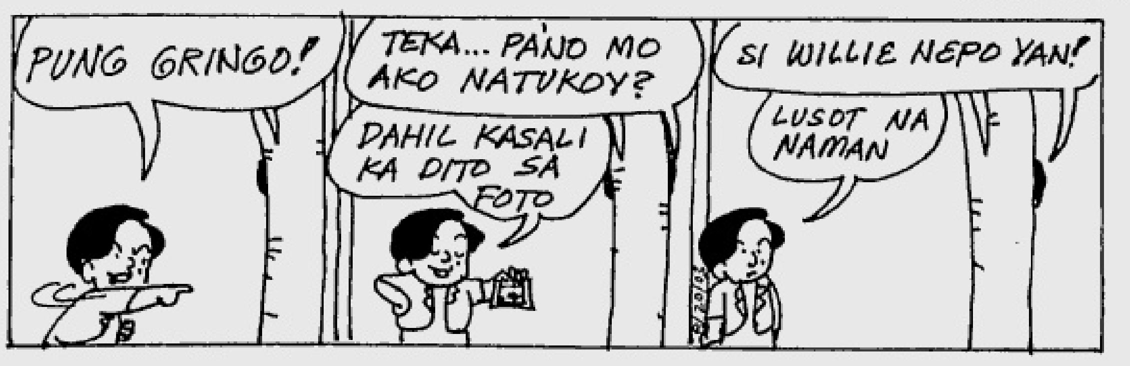
8/20/03

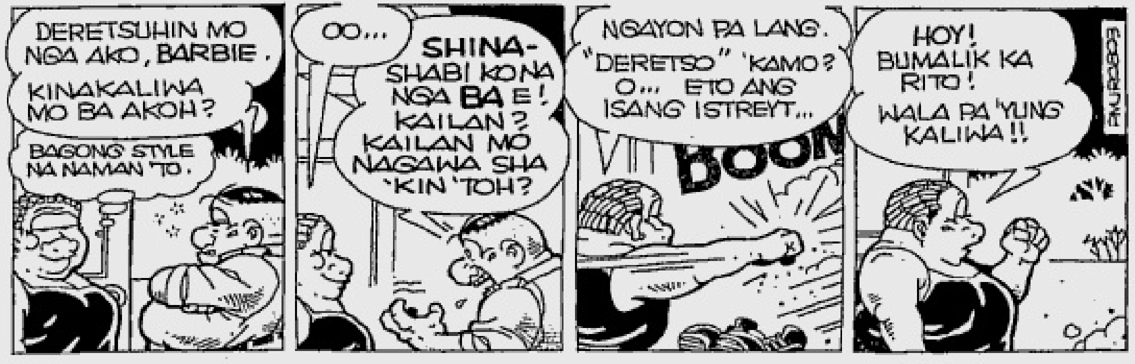
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PUNG GRINGO!
TEKA... PAANO MO AKO NATUKOY?
DAHIL KASALI KA DITO SA FOTO
SI WILLIE NEPO YAN!
LUSOT NA NAMAN

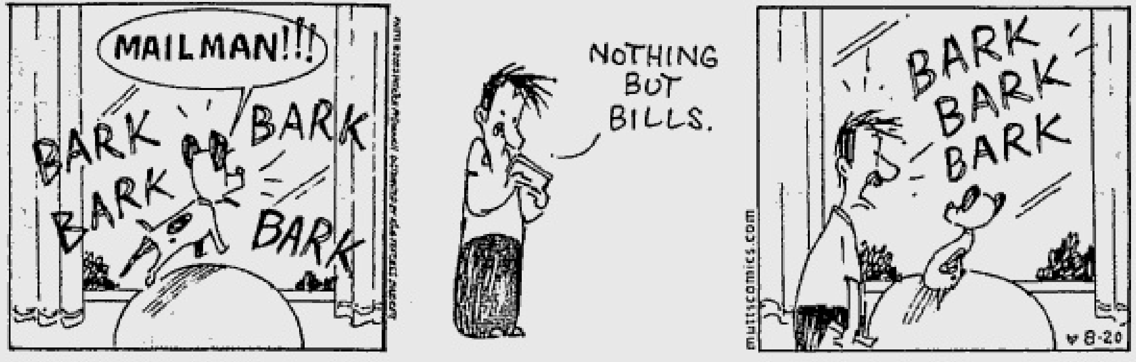
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


DERETSUHIN MO NGA AKO, BARBIE.
KINAKALIWA MO BA AKOH?
BAGONG STYLE NA NAMAN 'TO.
OO...
SHINA-SHABI KO NA NGA BA E! KAILAN? KAILAN MO NAGAWA SHA 'KIN 'TOH?
NGAYON PA LANG.
"DERETSO" 'KAMO? O... ETO ANG ISANG ISTREYT...
BOOM
HOY! BUMALIK KA RITO! WALA PA 'YUNG KALIWA!!
PMJR0803

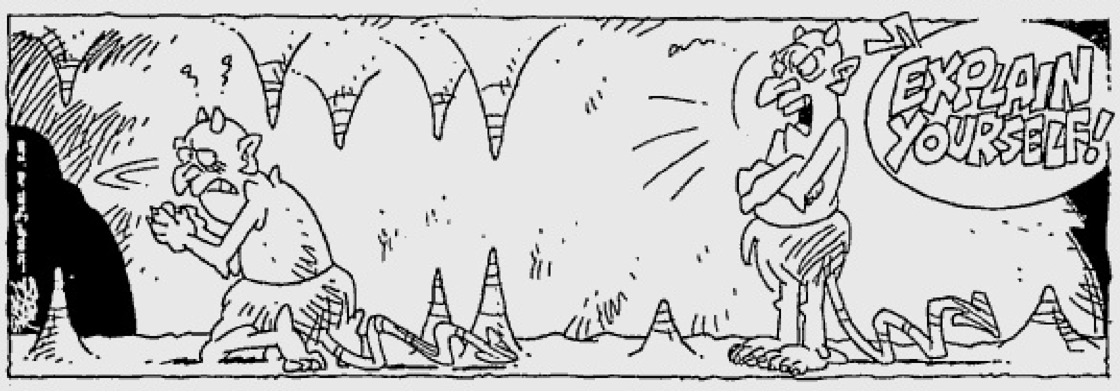
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MAILMAN!!!
BARK BARK BARK BARK
NOTHING BUT BILLS.
BARK BARK BARK
muttscomics.com
8-20

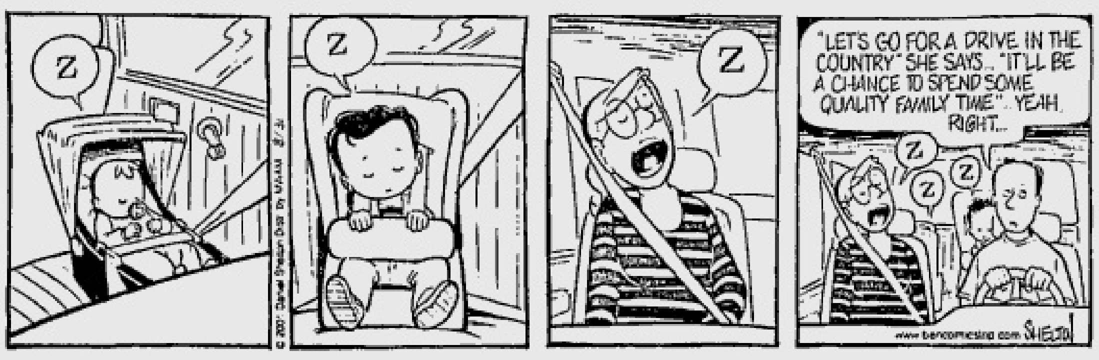
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


EXPLAIN YOURSELF!

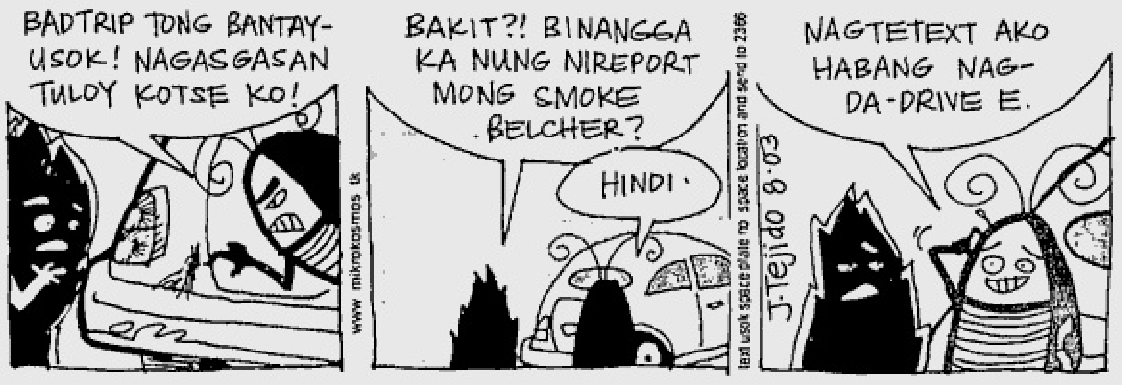
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


Z
Z
Z
"LET'S GO FOR A DRIVE IN THE COUNTRY" SHE SAYS... "IT'LL BE A CHANCE TO SPEND SOME QUALITY FAMILY TIME"... YEAH RIGHT...
Z Z Z
www.bencomicstrip.com SHELTON

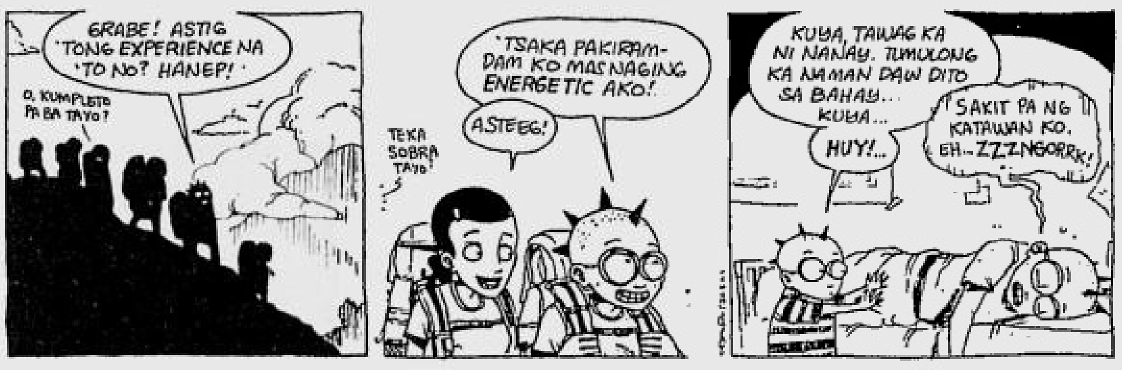
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BADTRIP 'TONG BANTAY-USOK! NAGASGASAN TULOY KOTSE KO!
www.mikrokosmos.tk
BAKIT?! BINANGGA KA NUNG NIREPORT MONG SMOKE BELCHER?
HINDI.
J. Tejido 8-03
NAGTETEXT AKO HABANG NAG-DA-DRIVE E.

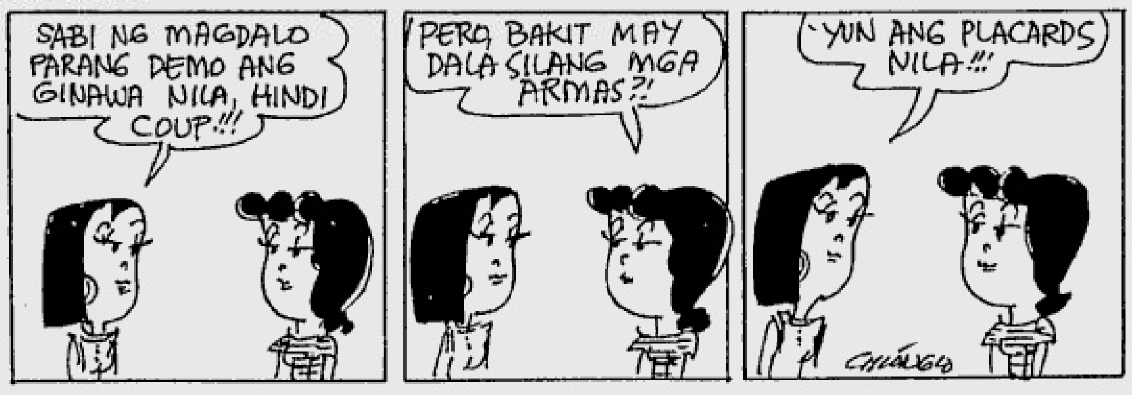
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


GRABE! ASTIG 'TONG EXPERIENCE NA 'TO NO? HANEP!
O, KUMPLETO PA BA TAYO?
'TSAKA PAKIRAMDAM KO MAS NAGING ENERGETIC AKO!
ASTEEG!
TEKA SOBRA TAYO!
KUYA, TAWAG KA NI NANAY. TUMULONG KA NAMAN DAW DITO SA BAHAY... KUYA...
HUY!...
SAKIT PA NG KATAWAN KO. EH... ZZZNGORRK!

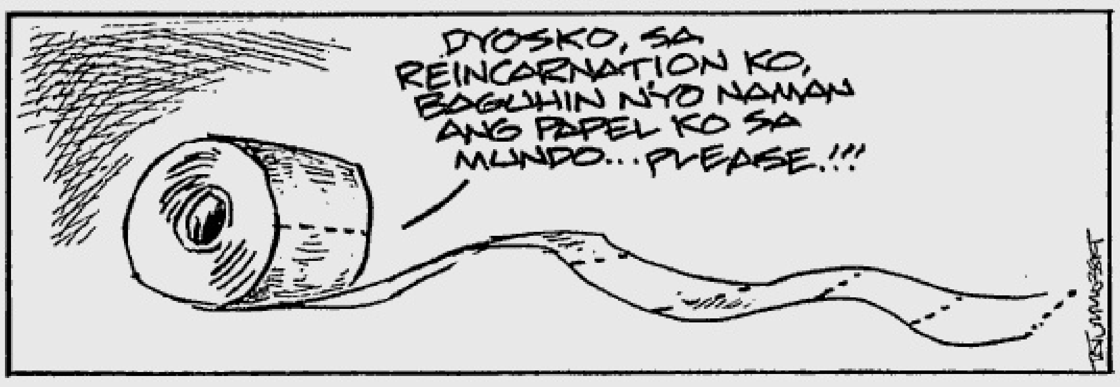
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SABI NG MAGDALO PARANG DEMO ANG GINAWA NILA, HINDI COUP!!!
PERO BAKIT MAY DALA SILANG MGA ARMAS?!
'YUN ANG PLACARDS NILA!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


DYOSKO, SA REINCARNATION KO, BAGUHIN N'YO NAMAN ANG PAPEL KO SA MUNDO... PLEASE!!!

Online all the time

From page E1

For MAC—Power PC, G3, G4 or iMac, Mac OS version

8.6-10, Netscape Navigator 5 or Microsoft Internet Explorer v. 5 and up, CD-ROM or DVD Drive, 100 MB of free disk space, at least 32MB RAM and a high-powered USB Port.

RAMON Pineda (left), head of Globelines Wireline Voice, and Antonio Mapa, head of marketing, Globelines Wirelines Voice, enjoy the speed of DSL.
PAM PASTOR

The DSL package includes one user ID with 5 megabytes of storage space, unlimited Internet access, 5 megabytes of web space and an ADSL (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line) Modem.

Installation fee for existing Globelines subscribers is P1,500, and P2,000 for new Globelines subscribers.

Existing Globelines subscribers only need to wait one week for installation. New subscribers may enjoy the service as soon as their telephone line is installed.

Right now, Globelines DSL is available in certain areas of Manila, Makati, Ortigas, San Juan, Mandaluyong; Pasig and certain areas in Cebu like F. Ramos St., Gorordo Ave., Cebu Business Park, Jones Ave., Baknaan and Mandaue.

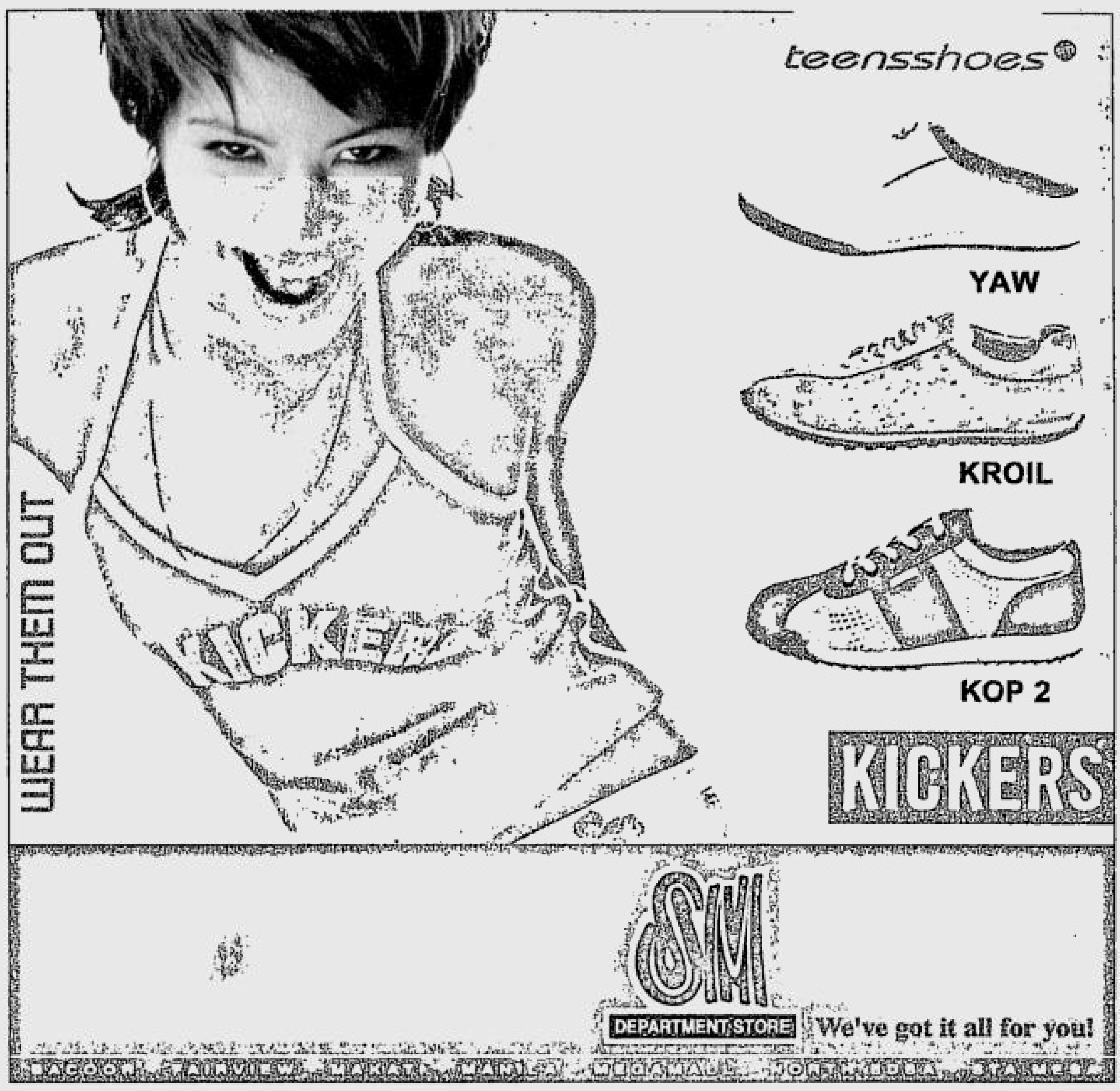
Globelines is constantly working to make other areas serviceable too. According to Ramon Pineda, head of Globe Wireline Voice, there are plans of expanding to the rest of Visayas.

Meanwhile, Globelines subscribers whose areas are still not covered by the rollout will have to temporarily settle for Globelines' dial-up Internet service which charges 50 centavos per minute.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.

(FROM left) Jones Campos, head of public relations with Ramon Pineda, Antonio Mapa and other Globe colleagues at the DSL press conference

GLOBE's DSL service was launched in Cebu with a Matrix-themed party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KOP 2
KICKERS
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• 1.5 Liter 7-UP
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Price subject to 10% service charge and local tax. • Promo runs from Aug. 12 to Sept. 29, 2003. Valid for takeout and delivery only.

CHANGE THE WORLD

Youths building a strong foundation for their future

By Claire Marie Algarme
Contributor

THOUSANDS of people my age have done volunteer work for Habitat for Humanity, a non-profit organization that builds houses with and for families in need.

As a Habitat staff member, I saw many students, members of youth organizations and young professionals all over the country take up hammer and shovel and do carpentry work.

Every summer since the year 2000, the youth participate in the annual "Youth Build" project of Habitat, spending a day or more doing construction work.

The scorching heat of the sun does not deter them. Their clean shirts are soiled as they work side-by-side with the future residents of the house they are building. Whether it was a big event like the Jimmy Carter Work Project in 1999 or ordinary house-building on a weekend, volunteers.always fill a Habitat site with joy.

Although I spent practically most of my Saturdays in construction sites, I seldom had the opportunity to participate in actual building. As a member of the communications group, I helped coordinate with media and other VIPs or conduct interviews at the site.

VOLUNTEERS hard at work

I remember the very first volunteer I interviewed. Anna was a teenager from New Zealand who came to the Philippines with her church mates as Habitat volunteers. "I really wanted to come here and help these families in whatever way I can. I had to do some babysitting and other menial jobs in the supermarket to save up for this trip. I am glad I did all of those things because it was worth doing them," she said.

Passionate do-gooders

I met other young people who had such fervor and passion for helping others and in making the world a better place. I was impressed by the enthusiasm of high school students from Poveda who sang happily as they worked. I was inspired by the eagerness of the youth in Cebu who spent their spare time helping in office work and organizing fund-raising activities. I was moved by the hope that blossomed in the hearts of children of Habitat home partners in Negros. I was encouraged by the commitment of young volunteers in Davao who went from town to town advocating the eradication of poverty and telling people about Habitat for Humanity.

The Filipinos' youthful idealism and zeal have captivated and inspired young people in other countries to help those in need. "Youth Build" has become a buzzword in Habitat offices in the United States and other Asian countries. In 2002, countries in East and Southeast Asia adopted the "Youth Build" project to strengthen youth participation in Habitat for Humanity's home-building campaign.

That same year, I was asked to help in the resource development of Indonesia's Habitat. I saw during my seven-month stay how it was transformed from a struggling program to a thriving one.

The youth played a big role in the Habitat for Humanity program. Many young volunteers are Christians. But despite being minorities in their respective country, they dedicated themselves to helping many Muslim families have a home of their own.

Religion doesn't matter

One member of the Habitat youth core group in Yogyakarta, Indonesia stands out. Joyo has been volunteering for more than four years now. Habitat for Humanity's Christian principles has not interfered in any way with Joyo's Muslim faith and his commitment to help people in need. He understood fully well that Habitat for Humanity selected families according to their needs regardless of background or religion. He also appreciated Habitat's principle of inclusivity, welcoming volunteers from various sectors without any discrimination or bias.

People say young people are effective volunteers because they have so much energy for the heavy work to be done. I say they are effective volunteers because they have so much sincerity.

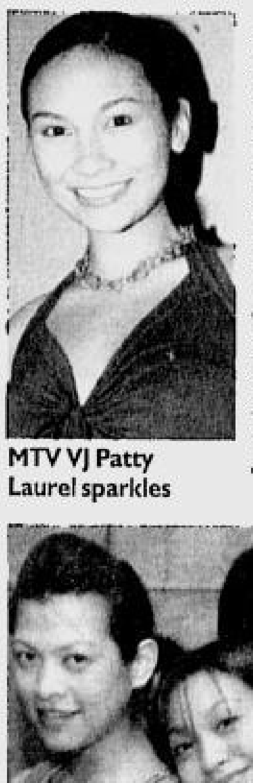
Last February, I stopped working for Habitat for Humanity but I did not stop helping Habitat for Humanity. I have become a volunteer myself, no longer envying the others because I am now one of them. Rendering service to Habitat is no longer a job but a personal mission.

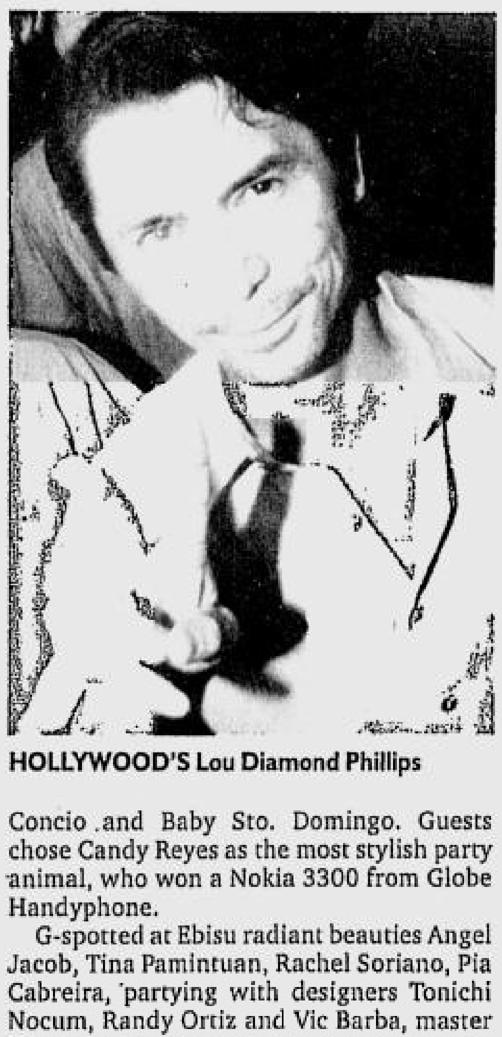
Call your local Habitat for Humanity office or call the National Office of Habitat for Humanity Philippines at 6329092, 6329178 or 6384127 or visit their website at www.habitat.org.ph.

Hollywood stars add glam to party in Makati

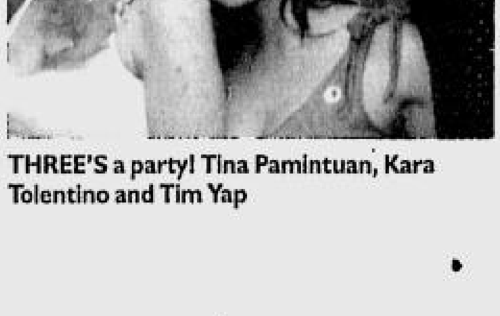
HOLLYWOOD stars Tia Carrere and Lou Diamond Philips joined cosmo Manille's brightest and most beautiful for the first Globe's Glow Party series held at DreamBar at 6750 Ayala Avenue and Ebisu on Jupiter.

Globe postpaid subscribers danced the night away with free drinks, bar chow and freebies.


MTV VJ Patty Laurel sparkles


HOLLYWOOD'S Lou Diamond Phillips

Seen at Dreambar along with Carrere and Philips were Mon and Tweetie Gonzales, Teddy and Janine Dario, Romina Urra, MTV's VJ Patty Laurel and Georgette Tengco, PBA hotshots Bobong Velez, Norman Black, Chino Trinidad, Joaqui Trillo, cager Jeffrey Cariaso, siblings Louie and John Urrutia and Globe's Dodo Reyes, Joaf Africa, Buda Concio .and Baby Sto. Domingo. Guests chose Candy Reyes as the most stylish party animal, who won a Nokia 3300 from Globe Handyphone.


THREE'S a party! Tina Pamintuan, Kara Tolentino and Tim Yap

G-spotted at Ebisu radiant beauties Angel Jacob, Tina Pamintuan, Rachel Soriano, Pia Cabreira, partying with designers Tonichi Nocum, Randy Ortiz and Vic Barba, master stylist Jing Monis, and party-meister Tim Yap. Everyone swayed to the musical stylings of bbc's Scrambled Edge and Mike Constantino. Making sure everyone had a blast were Globe's Matthew Carreon and MJ Hyndmann. Rachel Soriano was adjudged the most stylish person of the night and was also given a Nokia 3300.

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Playing 20 questions with Trisha Chiongbian

PHOTO BY TOTO LABRADOR

The peppy girl on 'Gameplan' answers totally random questions for 2bU!

By Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

SHE'S the only one who can deliver those promo spiels on television without making us laugh.

A Studio 23 VJ for four years, Trisha Chiongbian now revs us up at 7 p.m. every Saturday night on "Gameplan" (she's been having fun with Carlo Ledesma and Akiko Thompson for two years).

An adventurer, she's hasn't passed up a chance to join events like the Adventure Race (Team Gameplan won second) and the San Mig Light Enduro.

She has just signed a contract with Levi's for its 501 Women's Campaign. Two weeks ago she hosted the Meg Anniversary party.

2bU! caught with her and asked 20 totally random questions. Her only concern? "I think my answers are kinda corny. Tell me honestly, are they corny?"

1. Who's your fave superhero?

Superman. Um, because he's the most visible nowadays.

2. Who would play you in a movie?

My sister, because she knows me so well. (laughs)

3. What did you want to be at 10 years old?

A gemologist. No, seriously! I love glowing stones and diamonds. I wanted to learn more about them back then.

4. Best book you've read?

Oh that's hard. Well, the book I'm reading now is "Castle of Wizardry" by David Eddings. It's the fourth in a series. It's science fiction. There are the Belgariad, Mallorean... it's actually got its own cult. It's all about magic.

5. What moment in your life did you wish you had a camera to document?

Me playing the piano. I got a gold medal and an International Guild certificate, but there were no photos. I was around 18 or 19, still in college. See, when I play the piano (alone), it's okay. But when I play in front of people, I just get shy. So I wish I had a picture.

6. What's one silly thing you believed in as a child?

That love conquers all. That's true! Because now I know that you have to work on it for it to work out.

7. How long did it take you to get over your first heartache?

A year.

8. I let someone know I like him by...

I have a boyfriend. I just told him.

9. Last time you made someone cry?

Last week.

10. Name one song that describes your life.

Oh I'm stumped. I can't think of any... Oh, Rod Stewart's "It Had to be You." It's really good. That's the one song I like right now. It could change tomorrow, though.

11. What's the worst pick-up line?

"Haven't I met you before?" (laughs) I get that a lot. Sometimes it could be a pick-up line, sometimes not, you know? But when it's a pick-up line, it's just too corny.

12. What's the first thing that popped into your head this morning?

What am I doing today?

13. Who was your favorite school teacher?

My Religion/Theology teacher back in high school in the States, Ms. Milligan. She was easy to talk to, she listened to me, she didn't lecture me. You know when you're a kid, you don't like to be told things. Well, she listened.

14. Is Winnie the Pooh a boy or a girl?

I don't know. Neither. I guess a he. I never thought about it.

15. Your fave band at the moment?

Oh, there's a lot. Rivermaya, Side A, The Dawn... those guys are good.

16. What's the best gift you ever re-

PLAYING/ F3

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at Robinsons

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Spend an afternoon with strings attached. Catch the Acoustic Genius Nyoy Volante together with Mannos in a mini-concert that's an afternoon of pure pleasure.

August 23 (Saturday), 7 pm
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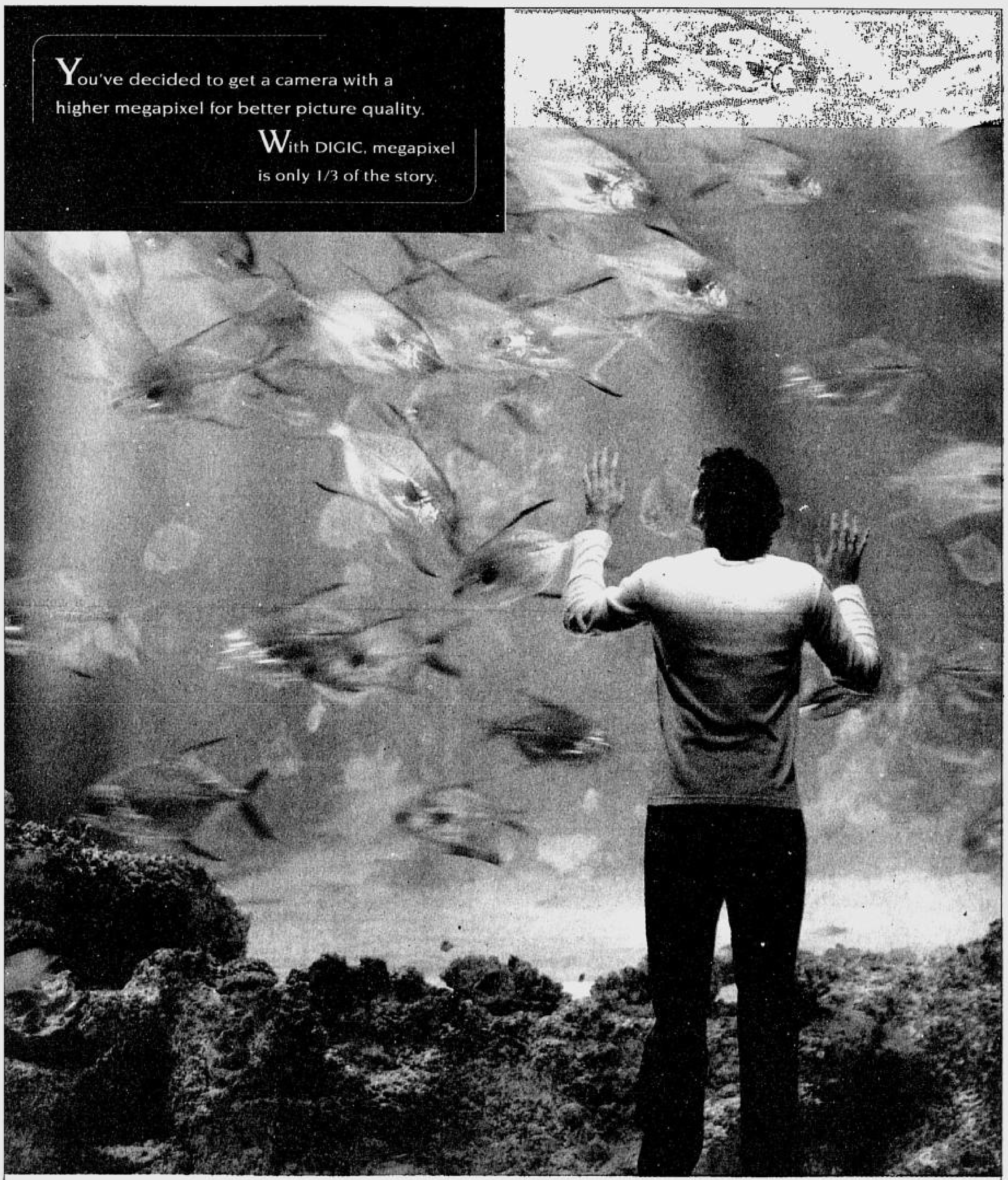
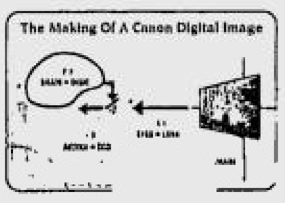
ROBINSONS Place MANILA



You've decided to get a camera with a higher megapixel for better picture quality.

With DIGIC, megapixel is only 1/3 of the story.

Let's start by saying you need three components before you can take a great picture. They are a high-performance lens, a CCD and an intelligent image processor. Together, they work like our eyes, retina and brain to produce a digital image. It's a known fact that Canon is the world leader in lens technology. Most Canon digital cameras feature a high-resolution CCD too. Combined with DIGIC's specialised function as the brain of the digital camera, you'll get image quality that is far superior to what you ever imagine. Its super-fast architecture allows you to have low power consumption and large-capacity buffering for continuous shooting as well. So start enjoying what DIGIC has to offer because megapixel is truly just 1/3 of the story.



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- 4x optical zoom
- 16.4x total zoom
- FlexiZone AF/AE
- Camera Direct Print

PowerShot S50
- 5 megapixel CCD
- 3x optical zoom
- 12.3x total zoom
- 9-point AiAF and FlexiZone AF/AE
- Camera Direct Print

IXUS 400
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PowerShot A300
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- 5.1x digital zoom
- 5-point AiAF
- Camera Direct Print

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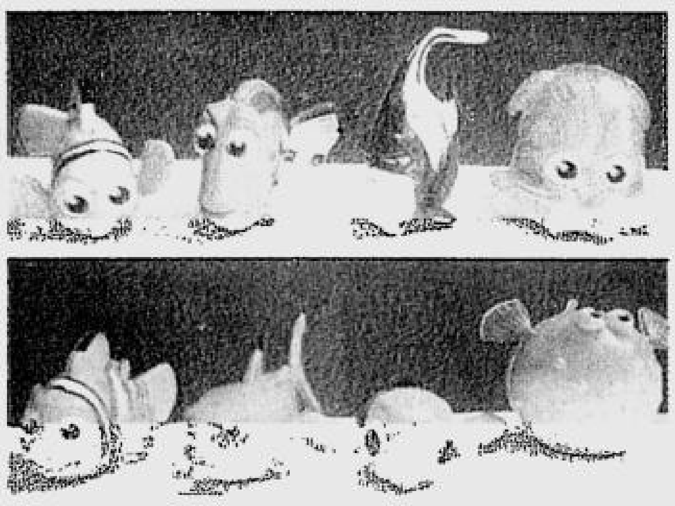
2BU! THERMOMETER

'F2' in Manila, down with Donita and abusive senator's son

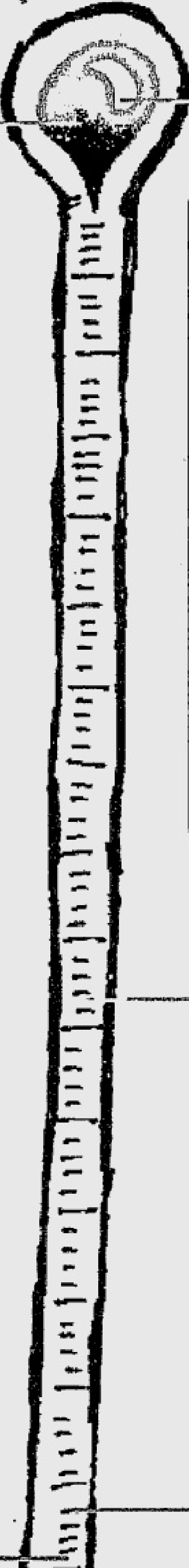
HEADS up, F4 fans. A very reliable source told us that Ken Zhu and Vaness Wu will soon be in Manila for a concert at the Ultra. We can almost imagine the queues for tickets.



"FINDING Nemo." We loved the movie and we love the merchandise. We've been buying Happy Meals like crazy.

ENOUGH of Donita already! We know she's pretty, and sweet, too. But everyone knows too much sweets can give you a nasty toothache. She has become the queen of hard sell. When she was still at MTV, viewers dared her to lick the armpit of VJ Utt—and she did, as you can see on this page. Then again that was a dare, so she's forgiven. Another time at a noontime TV show, she said, "I'm in a skirt even if I have mens (menstruation) today." The lunch time viewer didn't find it such an appetizing dessert.

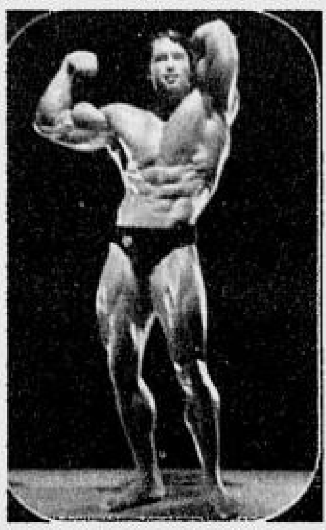
SHE'S definitely the bomb. "Gigli," the movie that stars real-life sweethearts Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez, bombed in the box office. It has started to disappear in movie theaters after only a few weeks of release. In fact, it has been called the worst film of the year, somewhere along the level of Madonna's "Swept Away." In connection with this, an alternative rock station in the US (WBCN) is giving away "I survived Gigli" T-shirts to anyone who is able to sit through the entire film.



PERHAPS making up for her year-long absence, Britney Spears will be appearing on the cover of the September issue of British Elle topless. Photographed by Mark Abrahams, she is shown with her arm strategically covering her chest.

"AMAZING Race." It's down to the final three, and we just can't seem to decide whom to root for. After well-loved clowns, Jon and Al, were booted off two weeks ago, we have found it hard to select a favorite. Gay couple Reichen and Chip are too stiff, Jon and Kelly are immature, and David and Jeff are just too predictable.

ARNOLD Schwarzenegger's wife, NBC news correspondent Maria Shriver, took a leave of absence from her job since her husband announced her candidacy for governor. She says she didn't want any conflict of interest for NBC News. In our country, where senators host their own shows and star in TV commercials, can we expect the same ethical sensitivity?



"NOT onli in da Pilipins." Americans get a taste of Pinoy life. Two of the biggest news from Uncle Sam's land are: one, "Terminator" dude Arnold Schwarzenegger's candidacy for California governor, and two, the big New York blackout. Actor as politician wannabe? Power outage? That's nothing new to us Pinoys.

LYNCH
U.S.ARMY

TWENTY-YEAR-OLD former prisoner of war, Pfc. Jessica Lynch, will be writing a book about her experience. Early this year, she was captured in Nasiriyah, a southern city in Iraq, and was rescued nine days later. Different sources have different versions of her story. Perhaps this book will give all the rumors a rest.

RESTAURANT 12 seems to be the most happening place these days. Just after their temporary closing due to smoking restrictions recently, DJ promoter Andy Gray was arrested last Friday because his immigration papers were two weeks late. But according to other sources, this action is the result of a griping senator's son, who, just weeks ago, was refused entry into the hip spot.

Gray takes charge of the door at Resto 12 every Friday, choosing the people who would enter the venue. One Friday night, the senator's kids tried to enter, and one of them was dressed shabbily, which made Gray tell them that it was "a private party." This offended the senator's kid, who vowed to Gray that he'd be sorry.

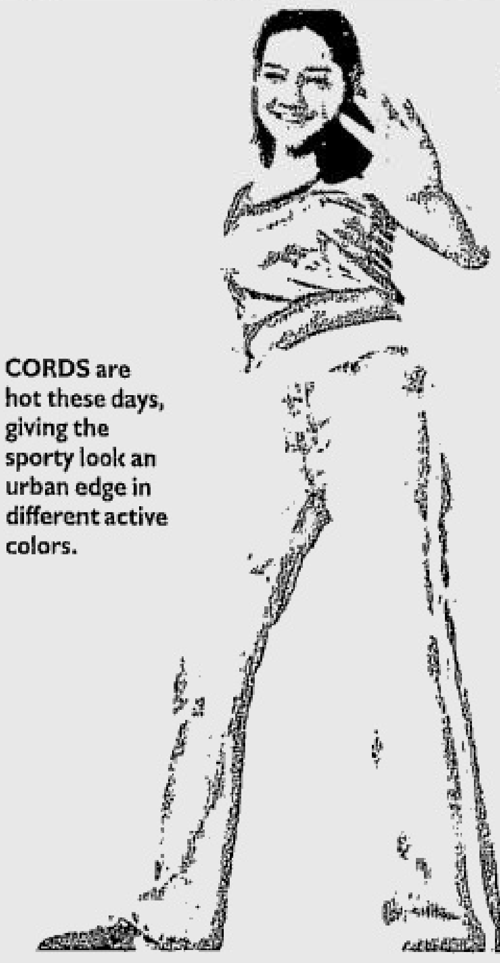
THE GOOD news? McDonald's Twister Fries are back. The bad news? An order is now P38, the serving isn't as generous and the fries are not as flavorful.

MUTINY madonnas. Just days after the Oakwood incident, three new bold stars emerged—Trix Trillanes, Glorietta Magdalo and Angelina Rebella. Hilarious. And annoying. Talk about capitalizing on current events. We wonder what the rebel soldiers have to say about that.

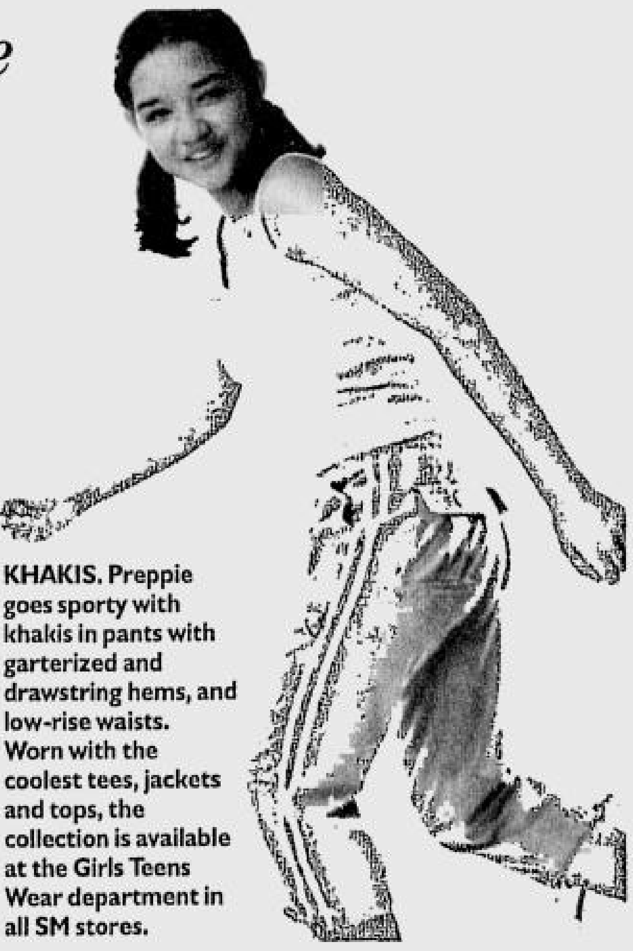
Sporty spice at SM

TODAY'S fun clothes have evolved from the terry tracksuit and sleek spandex types deco stylized streetwear.

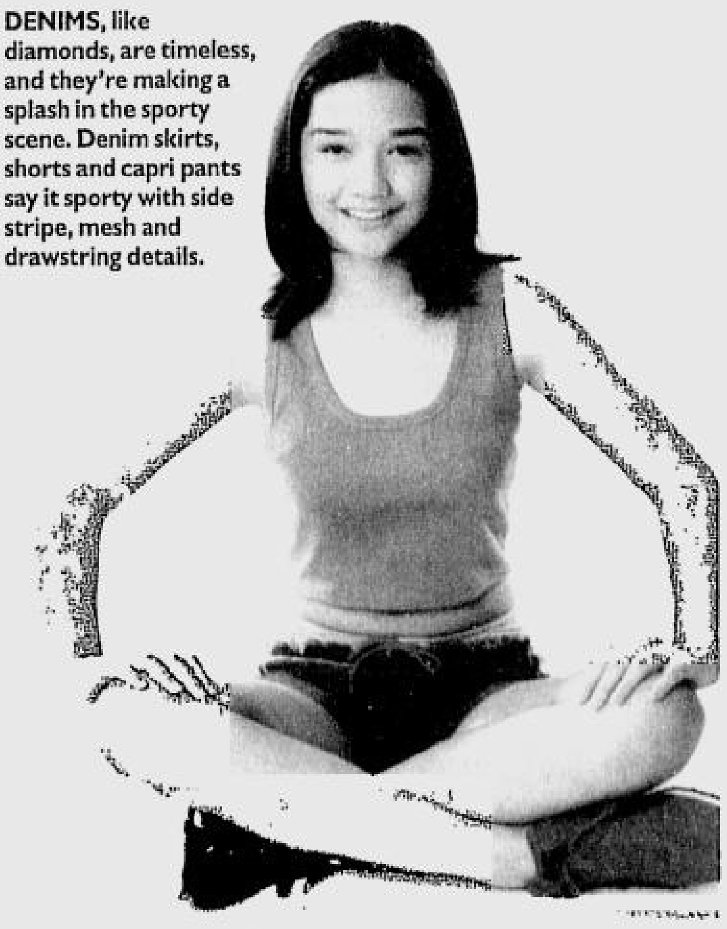
Fabric is the key in giving a look the mainstream edge. Acting as teammates to sports-struck knits and lycra are denims, khaki and cords. Here's SM's checklist of the latest active looks to keep you on the fashion track.



CORDS are hot these days, giving the sporty look an urban edge in different active colors.



KHAKIS. Preppie goes sporty with khakis in pants with garterized and drawstring hems, and low-rise waists. Worn with the coolest tees, jackets and tops, the collection is available at the Girls Teens Wear department in all SM stores.



DENIMS, like diamonds, are timeless, and they're making a splash in the sporty scene. Denim skirts, shorts and capri pants say it sporty with side stripe, mesh and drawstring details.

RESTO OF THE WEEK

TANTALIZED at Trio

By Margot Aissa C. Tan
2bU! Correspondent

INDULGE. Forget about sticking to your diet as you enter Trio's world of decadent gastronomical delights guaranteed to satisfy your taste buds.

Located behind Fort Bonifacio's Pier One, Trio is a snazzy place where you can take your loved ones. The restaurant's ambience sets the right mood for an intimate but not-too-formal and comfortable dining experience.

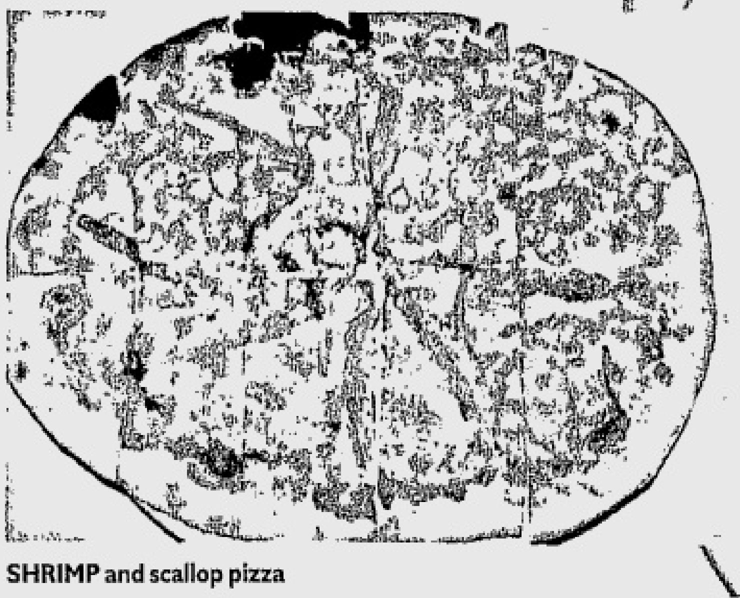
Start off with Shrimp Bisque or Spinach Soup. After that, reward yourself with Trio's house specialty, Chicken Scallopine. This *über* dish is made of pan-fried chicken in lemon and white wine sauce.

You can also opt for the scrumptious Shrimp and Scallop Pizza minus the greasiness. To end the evening on a high note, partake of Trio's Varhona Chocolate Mousse Dessert or ask the chef to whip up Mango Zuppa Englizza, Jaconde sponge with fresh mango topped with luscious bavarian cream. Yum.

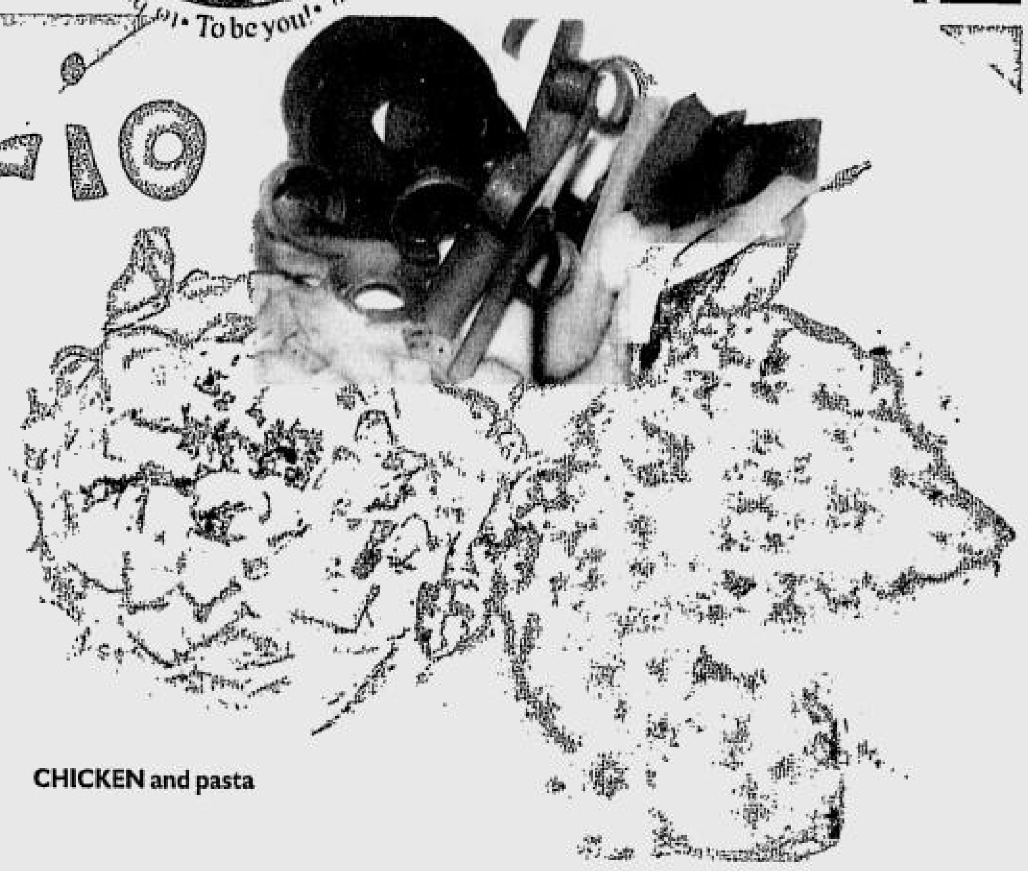
Two orders of soup, two entrees and a single serving of dessert will cost you an average of P1,000, which is not bad at all.

Trio leaves your tummy full and lulls you to heavenly sleep.

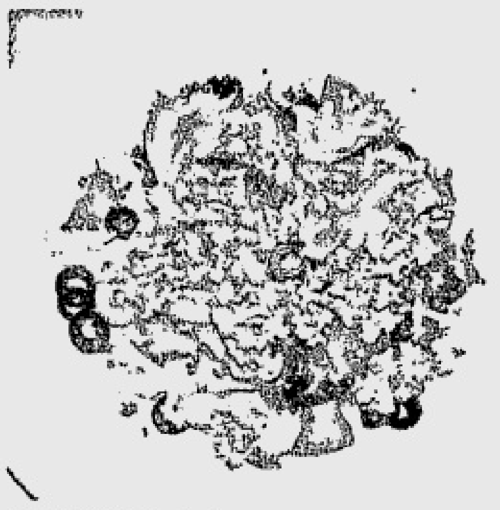
E-mail the author at magsygirl@hotmail.com



SHRIMP and scallop pizza

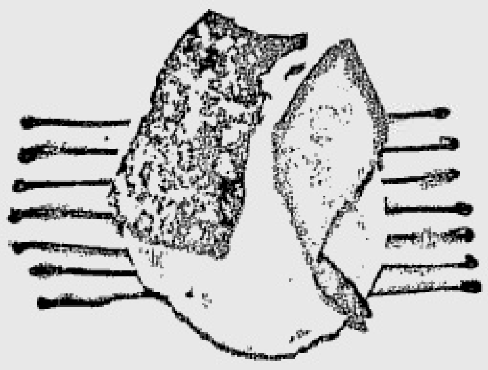


CHICKEN and pasta



DELIGHTFUL salad

SHRIMP Bisque



MANGO Zuppa Englizza

Playing 20 questions with Trisha Chiongbian

From page F1

ceived?

A trip to Palawan, from my mom.

17. You can't stop eating...

Sweets. And chocolate cake.

18. If a man from the moon landed on your backyard, what would you do?

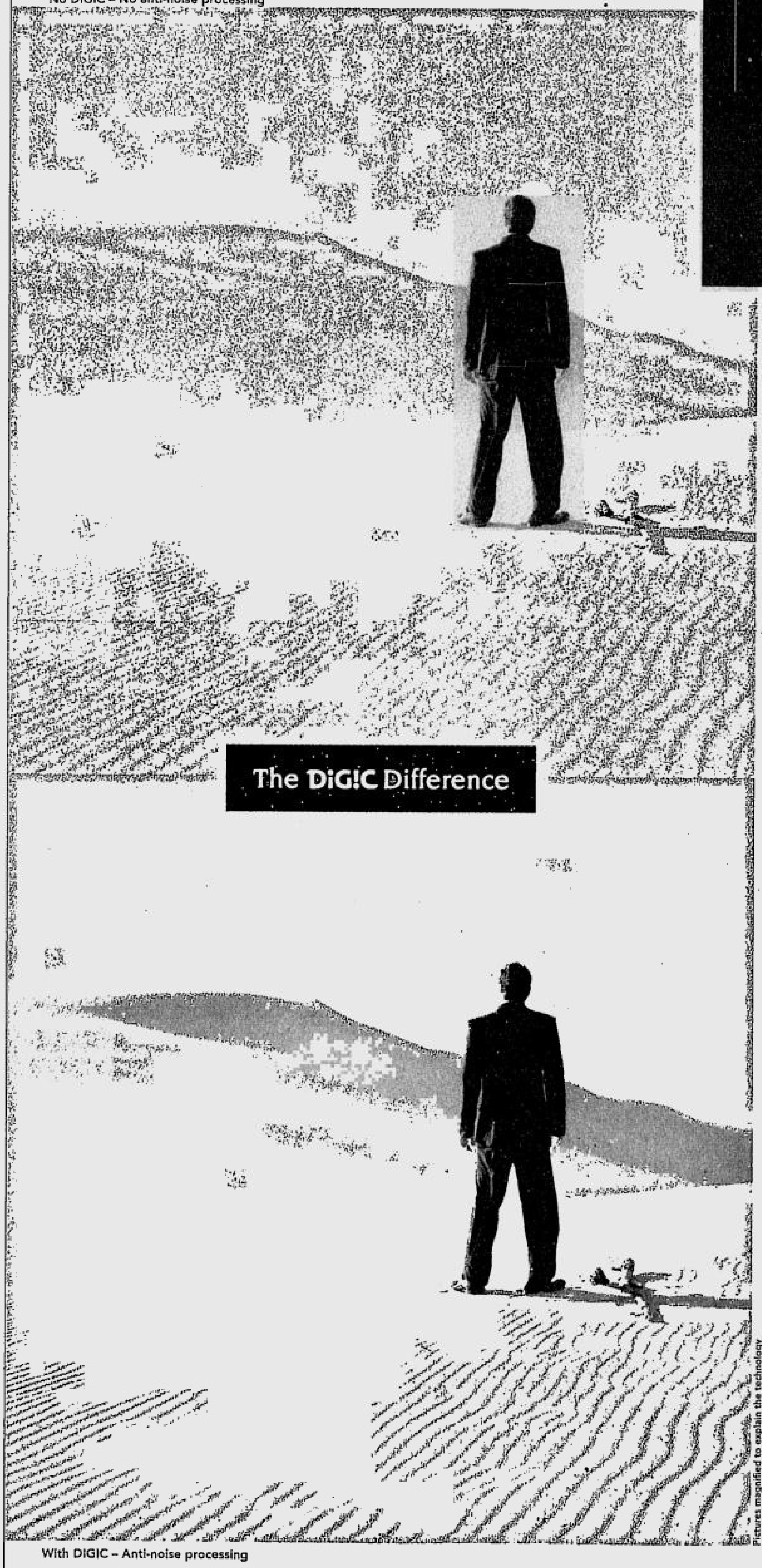
I'd say, "Hi! What are you doing here? Nice to meet you! What do you want from me?"

19. Are MP3s good or bad?

It's bad for business, but good because people can save money. If I had money to buy a CD, I'd probably pay for it because that's the way it should be.

20. What's the worst question anyone has asked you?

I don't think I've ever been asked a bad question. If they're not serious [questions], they're funny, like this. And people sort of know what's below the belt anyway.


No DIGIC – No anti-noise processing
The DIGIC Difference
With DIGIC – Anti-noise processing
Pictures magnified to explain the technology

The noise created by a camera's image processing can dramatically degrade the picture quality.

With DIGIC, you can't "see" the noise.

With Canon digital cameras, there's no need to erase noise simply because it's not even generated. Noise, by the way, is the visible effect of an electronic interference on images. This generally leads to picture degeneration in the final image from a digital camera.

So how do we prevent the generation of noise? With our own digital imaging processor called DIGIC developed in our labs.

You see, it's widely known that noise is largely generated during image processing and manufacturers of other processors have touted various noise reduction techniques as advanced features. But we beg to differ.

In fact, most of these are "brute force" approaches that attempt to erase noise after it has been generated in the image processor. Invariably, these techniques result in degraded resolution on the final image.

On the other hand, DIGIC prevents noise from being generated. By dealing with noise at its source, Canon delivers superior image quality without compromising resolution. And that's something you can clearly see.

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- Expanded playback zoom
- Advanced SLR features
- Camera Direct Print

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- 4x optical zoom
- 16.4x total zoom
- FlexiZone AF/AE
- Camera Direct Print

PowerShot S50
- 5 megapixel CCD
- 3x optical zoom
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Canon

Attack of Peter Pan syndrome

Now that the whole world seems to be growing up the author finds herself sear for Neverland -and no not Mi ael Jackson

By Pam Pastor

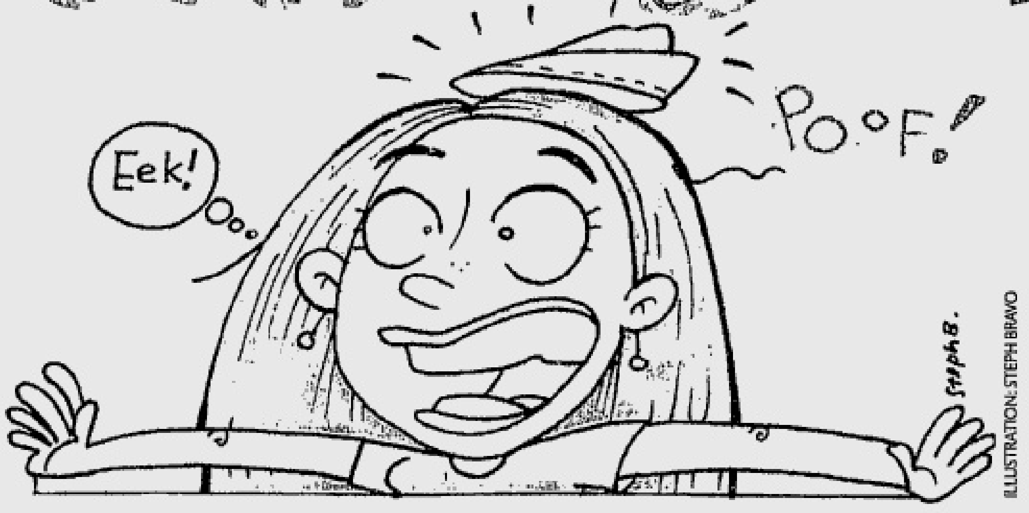

Eek!
POOF!
steph B.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

SATURDAY night found me in a condo unit in the middle of the city, getting sloshed at a friend's bridal shower. In the middle of the drinking, stripping, dancing and laughing, it hit me.

We really are growing up.

The signs have been here for a while now, and even more so these past few weeks.

Factoid #1: You know you're growing up when your weekend itinerary includes baptisms, weddings and bridal showers of people not related to you.

Someone on my high school batch's mailing list sent wedding pictures of an old classmate. It's hard to believe that people my age have successfully planned weddings when not too long ago, we were still planning our debuts.

Just days later, I received a text message from an old seatmate who told me she's seven months pregnant. That baby is about to become my fourth godchild. It's hard to think of her as a mom when I still remember her as the girl who almost got kicked out of Geometry class with me for trying to memorize the lyrics of Donna Lewis' "I Love You Always Forever" instead of focusing on our polygons.

Factoid #2: You know you're growing up when you start thinking of your school days as the good old days.

When I was still in school and I would complain about it, adults would turn wistful and inevitably drop one of these lines, "I miss school." "I'd quit my job and trade places with you in a minute." "When you get out, you'd do anything to get back in." I had to resist the strong urge to give them a nice little kick and settle for rolling my eyes. Now, just months after getting my degree, I'm doing the same thing. And my brother and cousins are the ones rolling their eyes at me.

Truth be told, there's strange comfort in those times when our potentially biggest problems were really comparatively small. When the biggest consequences of our actions would just be a failing grade and the worst would be being expelled from school.

Factoid #3: You know you're growing up when you and your friends start sentences with, "Do you remember when... ?"

Do you remember when you cut yourself with a kitchen knife and your mom thought someone was murdered in the bathroom? Do you remember when you walked into that glass door and left an imprint of your face on it? You actually have a history with people—and revisiting that has become a major kick, a welcome break from your life's realities.

Factoid #4: You know you're growing up when you and your friends start to get jaded.

Excitement over first relationships has been replaced with cynicism. Everyone gets wary of everyone else's partners. Everyone's gone through something—and the rest start acting like the relationship police.

Factoid #4: You know you're growing up when you start acting like a condescending adult.

One night, I was out with friends when a group of adolescent girls walked past us. They were heavily made up and were scantily clad.

"Jailbait," one of us said.

"What are they wearing?" another one said.

"They're just children!" a third one said.

Or there would be times we'd be out and there would be a group of boisterous teenagers at another table. They would always be met with raised eyebrows and snide remarks, as if we were never like them before, as if we don't still act like them sometimes.

Factoid #5: You know you're growing up when adult stuff has become your stuff.

Talking to friends used to revolve mostly around favorite bands, television shows, crushes and how strict our parents are. We still do that now—minus the part about the strict parents—but a lot of saliva is also wasted on discussions about work hours, security, benefits, settling down, life partners, getting ready for the future. Your friend who used to spend all his time playing video games is now starting his own business. The classmate who was a whiz in Math class is now handling real accounts. The cousin who once let her younger sister pull out her tooth is now a dentist.

Factoid #6: You know you're growing up when money becomes an issue.

Goodbye, allowance, hello, anxiety. Realizing that your parents aren't there anymore to answer your every whim, you start being more responsible about your expenses. Lapses in judgment lead to consequences that would impart a lesson or two.

Factoid #7: You know you're growing up when you realize you're harder to please.

Heaven used to be having my grandparents take me shopping for Sanrio goodies or tons of books. Then came the time when seeing a crush smile was enough to make my heart soar. Now, happiness lies elsewhere—and a lot of us haven't discovered where.

Factoid #8: You know you're growing up when you start being a source of embarrassment for younger relatives.

Face it, older relatives have been the reason behind a lot of our most hideous moments as teenagers. What about the aunt who insisted on interviewing your girlfriend? Or the great-uncle who liked snapping his dentures in public?

My younger cousin was buying something and I kept trying to bargain with the man. The man refused to budge but that didn't stop me. My cousin had to nudge me to shut me up. Hilarious, I thought, when I realized he thought what I had been doing was embarrassing.

Factoid #9: You know you're growing up when people around you start recognizing it too.

Just last Sunday, while my masseuse was kneading my back, she said, "*Pwede ka nang mag-asawa.*" I would have protested loudly but my face was muffled by the pillow.

A few lunches ago, my father turned to me and asked when I was getting married. It was hard to believe that the question came from my father who, just some years back, freaked out when he realized that the huge bar of chocolate in the fridge came from a guy who was about to become my boyfriend.

Before I could even respond, he declared that he wanted a grandchild by the time he was 50. I almost choked. He's turning 50 in less than a year.

Funny. Get married and have kids when I am barely out of my haphazard romances phase?

People respond to growing up in two ways—there are those who embrace it and those who fight it. I still haven't decided which one I am.

But then, my subconscious may have already decided for me.

While my friends are getting married, moving in together, having babies, starting their own companies, getting completely serious about their worlds and their future, I've been acting even more like a kid.

I've watched "Finding Nemo" three times. I've ordered Happy Meals because I wanted the Betty Spaghetty toys. My best friend J and I have been going to toy stores more often. I still read children's books—my Judy Blumes and Roald Dahls and Beverly Clearys. I enjoy pestering my younger brother even more now. I went to a *sari-sari* store and looked for the candies of my childhood. My cousins and I left the house at two in the morning and went to a 24-hour diner in our pajamas. Now that's not very adult-like, is that?

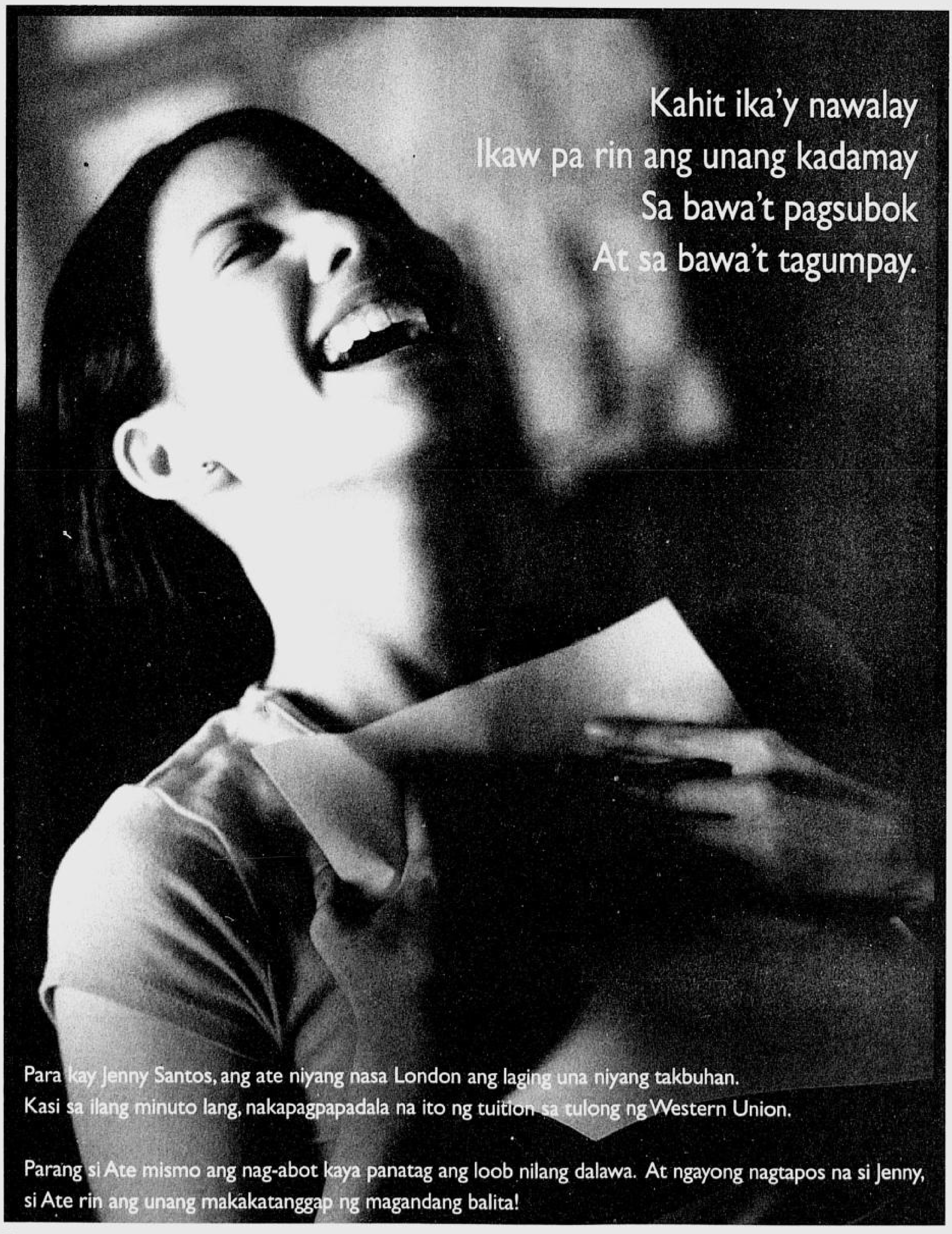
Those are the effects of my Peter Pan syndrome.

I used to think that I would relish every step toward being an adult. After all, I have long been clamoring for freedom and independence. But now that it's staring me in the face, I find myself reluctant to jump in. There is so much to love and cherish about being young. I refuse to let that go yet.

But then, I think about my grandma who, at 75, is still the epitome of coolness, who exercises every morning, wears rubber shoes, texts, is an excellent mall buddy and remains a word wizard. I look at my other set of grandparents who still date up to now. I think about my grandma who has a crush on Bill Pullman, listens to Josh Groban, adores Sandra Bullock, has excellent taste in clothes and likes shopping for me, my brother and cousins. I think about my grandpa who has done so much with his life, who discovers the best places to go to even before I hear about them and is so smart he'd be my lifeline if I joined the now dead "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?" And I realize there is a way to become an adult and still embrace your youth.

So maybe growing up isn't so bad after all. As long as it doesn't mean having to give up my Happy Meals.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.



Para kay Jenny Santos, ang ate niyang nasa London ang laging una niyang takbuhan.
Kasi sa ilang minuto lang, nakapagpapadala na ito ng tuition sa tulong ng Western Union.

Parang si Ate mismo ang nag-abot kaya panatag ang loob nilang dalawa. At ngayong nagtapos na si Jenny, si Ate rin ang unang makakatanggap ng magandang balita!

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